

Friday, March 13, 2020

Assembly Hall on Temple Square
and Church Office Building Auditorium, Salt Lake City, Utah

9:00–10:30 A.M., SESSION 1, ASSEMBLY HALL ON TEMPLE SQUARE

Chair: Curtis Ashton

Jeffrey Mahas, *“Wonderful Light and Mystery”*: *The Lesser-Known 1838 Account of Joseph Smith’s First Vision*

Quinten Barney, *A Contextual Background for Joseph Smith’s Last Known Recounting of the First Vision*

Lisa Olsen Tait, *The Vision Beautiful: Susa Young Gates on What the First Vision Meant to Women*

James Miller, *“For Good and Evil”*: *Perceptions of Joseph Smith’s Visionary Activities in the Russian Press*

10:45 A.M.–12:15 P.M., SESSION 2, ASSEMBLY HALL ON TEMPLE SQUARE

Chair: Emily Utt

Don Bradley, *The Father and the Son: Joseph Smith’s Quest to Save His Family as the Root of the Restoration*

Maxine Hanks, *Visionary Women: Feminine Influence in the First Vision*

Jennifer Reeder, *Emma Smith’s Role in Joseph Smith’s Vision*

Kyle Walker, *Smith Family Recollections of Joseph Smith’s First Vision*

12:15–1:45 P.M., LUNCH (NOT PROVIDED)

1:45–3:15 P.M., SESSION 3, CHURCH OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM

Chair: Jacob Olmstead

Matthew Godfrey, *The “Nature” of Revelation: The Influence of the Natural Environment on Joseph Smith’s Revelatory Experiences*

Samuel Palfreyman, *Latter-day Saint Roots in the American Forest: God, the Devil, and Angels in the Nineteenth-Century Hemlock-Hardwood Forest of New York*

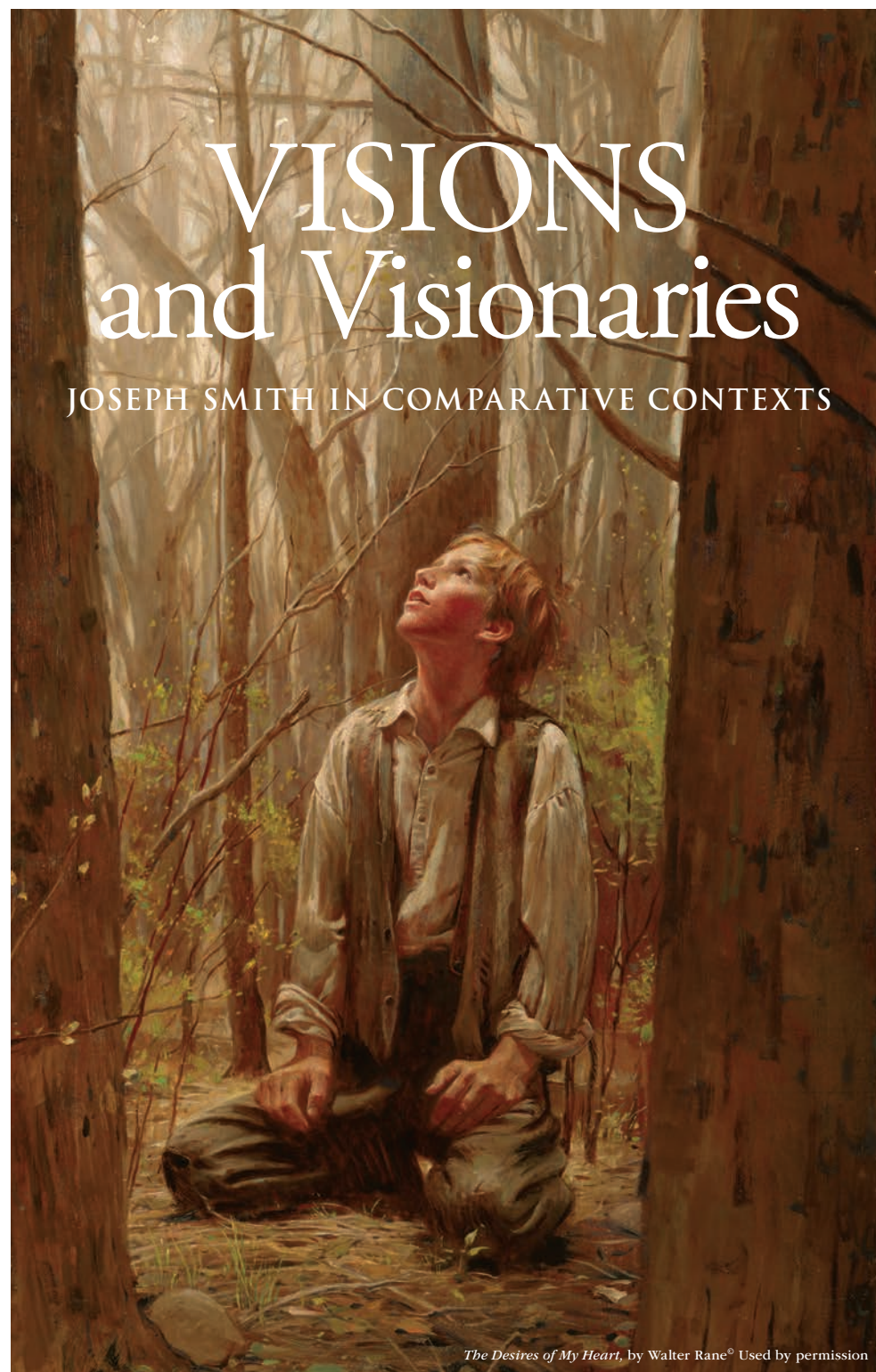
Gary Boatright Jr., *The Sacred Grove: Its History, Preservation, and Regeneration*

Adam Dunstan, *“This Is Where It Happened”*: *The Sacred Grove as a More-Than-Historic Site*

3:30–4:00 P.M., PLENARY ADDRESS, CHURCH OFFICE BUILDING AUDITORIUM

President Dallin H. Oaks, *Writing about the Prophet Joseph Smith*

CHURCH HISTORY
SYMPOSIUM



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Thursday, March 12, 2020

BYU Conference Center, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

9:00–10:00 A.M., KEYNOTE ADDRESS, 2254 CONF (AUDITORIUM)

Richard L. Bushman, *The First Vision Today*

10:15–11:30 A.M., CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1

SESSION 1A, 2254 CONF
(AUDITORIUM)

Chair: Riley Lorimer

Samuel Brown,
*The Individual and
Corporate Aspects of
Salvation*

Breck England,
*The Ordeal of the
Dispensational Prophet:
The First Vision as
Apocalypse*

Scott Woodward,
*Joseph Smith and the
Everlasting Covenant*

SESSION 1B, 2258 CONF
Chair: Nathan Jones

Ronald Bartholomew,
*Unpublished Visions of
Postmortem Joseph Smith*

Christopher Blythe,
“His Most Horrible
Power”: *W. W. Phelps’s
Vision of the Destroyer
on the Missouri River*

Kyle Beshears,
*Echoes of Palmyra in
Voree: James Strang’s
Visions in the Wake of
Joseph Smith’s Death*

SESSION 1C, 2260 CONF
Chair: Jessica Nelson

Rachel Cope,
*Teaching the First Vision
in Its Historical Context*

Spencer McBride,
*Podcasting the First
Vision*

Joseph Stuart,
*Teaching Joseph Smith’s
First Vision to Latter-day
Saints and Non-Latter-
day Saints: Pedagogy,
Primary Sources, and
Artistic Portrayal*

11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M., LUNCH (NOT PROVIDED)

1:00–2:15 P.M., CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2

SESSION 2A, 2254 CONF
Chair: Scott Esplin

J. Chase Kirkham,
*Envisioning the God
of Time: The Temporal
Conversions of Joseph
Smith and William Miller*

Stephen Fleming,
*Jane Lead and the
Restored Gospel*

Barbara Gardner,
*Opening the Gateway
of Heaven: A Look
at Doctrine and
Opportunities Regarding
Women since the First
Vision*

SESSION 2B, 2258 CONF
Chair: JB Haws

Kent Jackson,
“O, Lord, What Church
Shall I Join?": *The
Question and the Answer*

Steven Hepworth,
“I Was Seized Upon by
Some Power”: *Joseph
Smith, Satan, and the
First Vision*

Mary Jane Woodger,
*Joseph Smith on Dreams
as Revelation*

SESSION 2C, 2260 CONF
Chair: Fred Woods

Robert Millet,
*Doctrinal Insights from
Joseph Smith’s First
Vision*

Steven Olsen,
*How the Joseph Smith
Story Is True: A Literary
Perspective*

Hillary Kirkham,
*Reframing the
Martyrdom: The First
Vision, Trauma, and the
Uses of Memory*

2:30–4:00 P.M., CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3

SESSION 3A, 2254 CONF
Chair: Carter Charles

Casey Griffiths,
The First Vision in Film

Anthony Sweat,
*Visualizing the Vision:
The History and Future
of First Vision Art*

Gerrit Van Dyk,
*The First Vision as
Literature: How Writers
Have Engaged with
Joseph’s Theophany*

Nathan Williams,
*Portraying the First
Vision in Biography*

SESSION 3B, 2258 CONF
Chair: Steven Harper

Alex Baugh,
*Joseph Smith’s Multiple
Visions of the Father and
the Son*

John Hilton,
*Joseph Smith and
Revelatory Visions of
Christ’s Crucifixion*

**Keith Wilson and
Katy Pratt Sumsion**,
*The Importance of
the First Vision in the
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints and in
the Community of Christ:
A Longitudinal Study*

Ryan Gardner,
*The Continuing
Transformative Impact
of Joseph Smith’s First
Vision as Used in
General Conference*

SESSION 3C, 2260 CONF
Chair: Devan Jensen

Richard Bennett,
*Quiet Revivalism:
Pouring Cold Water over
the Burned-Over District:
A Reinterpretation of
Religious Revivalism in
Upstate New York in 1820*

Mark Staker,
*Joseph Smith’s Palmyra
During the Religious
Revivals of 1818*

Gerrit Dirkmaat,
“Visited by the Spirit of
the Almighty”: *Jonathan
Hadley and the Earliest
History of Joseph Smith’s
Visions*

Kathryn Burnside,
*Joseph Smith and Wilford
Woodruff as Visionary
Prophets*

4:00–5:00 P.M., KEYNOTE ADDRESS, 2254 CONF (AUDITORIUM)

Sheri Dew, *Joseph Smith and the Problem of Loneliness*



Joseph Smith's Boyhood Home[®]