

Heber J. Grant

President of the Church, 1918–45

Heber J. Grant was an example of persistence and determination. He lived by these words: “That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do; not that the nature of the thing itself is changed, but that our power to do is increased” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1901, 63).

“Keep the commandments of God,” he urged. “That is my keynote speech, just those few words: Keep the commandments of God” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1920, 10).

He reaffirmed such principles as the Word of Wisdom, the law of tithing, and industry and thrift. Under his direction, the Church moved to secure financial footing.

As the Lord’s prophet, he invited all people to come unto Christ: “No matter in what land we may dwell the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ makes us brothers and sisters” (in James R. Clark, comp., *Messages of the First Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints* [1971], 5:311).

1856 Born in Salt Lake City on November 22 to Jedediah Morgan Grant and Rachel Ridgeway Ivins Grant; his father, a counselor to President Brigham Young, dies nine days later

1864 Baptized in a wagon box set up as an outdoor baptismal font in City Creek, Salt Lake City

1877 Age 20, marries Lucy Stringham on November 1; she dies in 1893

1882 Age 25, ordained an Apostle by George Q. Cannon

1883–84 Ages 26–28, serves a mission to the American Indians

1901–3 Ages 44–46, organizes and presides over the Japanese Mission

1904–6 Ages 47–50, serves as president of the British and European Missions

1918 Age 62, sustained as President of the Church on November 23, with Anthon H. Lund and Charles W. Penrose as counselors

1919 Age 63, dedicates the Laie Hawaii Temple on November 27

1923 Age 66, dedicates the Cardston Alberta Temple on August 26

1927 Age 70, dedicates the Mesa Arizona Temple on October 23

1936 Age 80, establishes the Church welfare plan

1945 Age 88, dies on May 14 in Salt Lake City after more than 26 years as President of the Church

Summary

Heber J. Grant, seventh President of the Church, was an example of persistence and determination. He led the Church during the difficult time of World War I and through World War II and helped the Church become financially

secure. He urged members to keep the Word of Wisdom, pay tithing, and be thrifty. He invited all people to come unto Christ and keep the commandments of God.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS