

Succession Crisis

“FOUNDATIONS” NOTES

[What important historical events and/or doctrinal teachings from class today could be considered “foundational” to the Restoration? Which of these might I want to write about in my final “Top Ten Foundations of the Restoration Paper” due at the end of the course? Why? (75 word minimum)]

- After Joseph's death, there was contention around who was going to succeed him. Because he left no will, this led directly to the succession crisis.
- The succession crisis caused the creation of multiple different churches, the most popular of which was the RLDS church, now the Community of Christ.
- Sydney Rigdon proposed the idea that Joseph Smith would now talk through him and Sydney would be the spokesman for Joseph. ← a little weird but could be an interesting topic to look at.
- Brigham Young Claims that the Quorum of the Twelve should leave the church for the time being. During this speech, some say that Brigham Young was “transfigured” into Joseph Smith and looked and sounded like Joseph.

PERSONAL INSIGHTS & REFLECTIONS

Today we learned about the succession crisis and how this event in church history could be foundational. I think that the succession crisis is foundational because it is the reason our church is portrayed the way it is in the modern age. If the succession crisis hadn't unfolded in the way it did the church would look entirely different and the restoration could be looked at differently today. Without the transfiguration of Brigham Young, the saints would've had a harder time discerning the succession crisis. It is amazing that God manifested his will by transforming Brigham young the appearance of Joseph.

QUESTIONS/TOPICS TO PURSUE

[Questions I have or things I want to study *more* as a result of this class (at least two)]

1. Why did Brigham want the quorum of the 12 to leave the church?
2. If the people of the RLDS church saw the transfiguration of Brigham Young, why didn't they think he was the leader of the church?