



Eighteenth Annual

Leonard J. Arrington

**MORMON HISTORY
LECTURE**

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Arrington Lecture and Archives Foundation;
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*The lecture is free and open to the public.
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For more information about the Leonard J. Arrington
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Arrington Writing Awards; go to
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Dr. Terryl Givens

Presents

**“The Prophecy of Enoch as
Restoration Blueprint ”**

Thursday, September 20, 2012, 7:00 pm
Logan LDS Tabernacle
50 N. Main, Logan, Utah

The prophecy of Enoch exerted an influence on the development of early Mormonism far out of proportion to its modest textual length. The Book of Mormon had negligible impact—and continues to have negligible impact—on the doctrinal foundations of Mormonism. It both *enacts* and *facilitates* in particularly powerful form the main engine of Mormonism’s lifeblood—continuing and personal revelation. But as Rodney Stark has observed, “The Book of Mormon...may not have added enough doctrinal novelty to the Christian tradition to have made Mormonism more than a Protestant sect.”

The prophecy of Enoch, by contrast, singlehandedly sowed the seeds of Mormonism’s most distinctive and vibrant doctrines: It produced the most emphatic version of a passible deity the Christian world then knew; it catalyzed Latter-day Saint understanding of and enthusiasm for the doctrine of premortal existence; it foreshadowed, and continues to inform, the church’s distinctive doctrine of theosis or divinization; and perhaps most importantly, it provided Joseph Smith with the distinctive contours of his own prophetic vocation as a builder of Zion. If the Book of Mormon lent Joseph his indispensable aura of prophetic authority, the prophecy of Enoch provided a personal role model to inspire him, and a blueprint to direct him.

Terryl Givens received his PhD in Comparative Literature at UNC Chapel Hill . He holds the Bostwick chair of English, and is Professor of Literature and Religion, University of Richmond, where he teaches courses in 19th-century studies and the Bible’s influence on Western literature. As a commentator on Mormon religion and culture, he has appeared on PBS, NPR, and CNN. His writing has been praised by the New York Times as “provocative reading,” and includes, most recently, *When Souls had Wings*, a history of the idea of premortal life in Western thought, and a biography (with Matthew Grow) of Parley Pratt. *The God Who Weeps* (with Fiona Givens) will be released this fall.

*All college students are invited to participate in a writing
competition in conjunction with this lecture.
Cash awards will be given.*

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Are you interested in an additional event dealing with history in the interior west? If so, you may be interested in the awards ceremony for The Evans Biography Award and the Handcart Award. These awards are designed to encourage fine writing about the people who have helped shape the growth and character of the Interior West. The awards are administered every two years by the Mountain West Center for Regional Studies at Utah State University on the Utah State University campus. At the conclusion of the awards, there will be an opportunity to meet the authors and a book signing.

For more information on this event, visit <http://mountainwest.usu.edu/evans.aspx>