
THE THREE TEMPLAR ORDERS

THE ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER OF THE RED CROSS is divided into two sections. In both, the candidate represents Zerubbabel. The first section examines his admission to the Jewish Council at Jerusalem, in which he is granted permission and authority to travel to stop the enemies of the Jews from hindering their progress in building the Temple, and to recover the Holy Vessels of the Temple which were taken by King Nebuchadnezzar when he destroyed the First Temple. Upon his return to Jerusalem, he is captured and made prisoner upon reaching the domains of King Darius. In the second section, he renews his earlier friendship with the King, and is granted a position in the royal household. He participates in a friendly contest with other nobles regarding the question: “Which is greater? The strength of wine? The power of the King? Or the influence of woman?” The cornerstone of this Order is the all-important attribute of truth, and the importance of keeping one’s word. It foreshadows the words of Jesus: “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”

THE ORDER OF MALTA consists of the Order of St. Paul, or the Mediterranean Pass, which is somewhat preparatory to the order, and the Order of Malta itself. The Order of Malta must be conferred in either full or short form. The Order of St. Paul is based on the story of Paul’s shipwreck on the island of Melita (Malta). The candidate represents a knight who is about to depart for the Crusades in the Holy Land. He receives sustenance, both spiritual and physical, to prepare him for his burdensome journey. The Order of Malta is a suitable preparation for the Order of the Temple, in that it provides the candidate with New Testament instruction, particularly in the eight Beatitudes.

THE MAGNANIMOUS ORDER OF THE TEMPLE begins with the candidate, a Knight of Malta, who finds answers to certain questions and seeks to unite with a Commandery of Knights Templar. The Knight must a number of years of pilgrimage and knightly warfare. Having satisfactorily performed these, he is admitted to the Asylum of the Knights Templar, where he is a participant in memorial exercises which include readings of New Testament scripture. He is required to perform a time of penance before he seals his membership in the Order in the most solemn, impressive and binding manner, and is duly dubbed a member of the Valiant and Magnanimous Order of the Temple.



KANSAS YORK RITE

P.O. BOX 346, SPRING HILL, KANSAS 66083-0346



THE GRAND COMMANDERY KNIGHT TEMPLARS OF KANSAS

INVITES YOUR CONSIDERATION OF THIS BRIEF

EXPLANATION OF WHAT THE

CHIVALRIC ORDERS AND KNIGHT TEMPLARY

MEAN TO YOU AND WHY YOU SHOULD

CONSIDER THE CHIVALRIC ORDERS IN YOUR

CONTINUED MASONIC SEARCH FOR LIGHT

THE ORDERS OF CHRISTIAN KNIGHTHOOD

The Commandery confers Orders, not Degrees. The orders represent a new line of Masonic thought and experience, in that they no longer refer to Ancient Craft Masonry, but to ideals and practices of ancient chivalry and Christianity. The first Commandery order, The Order of The Red Cross, presents the story of the Jewish Prince, Zerubbabel, and his efforts to secure permission of the Persian King Darius to rebuild King Solomon's Temple. The next order, Knight of Malta, is a departure from Masonry based on the Old Testament and is the first Christian Order. Here, the candidate represents a knightly warrior of the Crusades and is preparing for a trip to the Holy Land. The last order is that of the Magnanimous Order of The Temple or Knight Templar, the crowning glory of York Rite Masonry. In this Christian Order, the candidate represents a knightly warrior who desires to unite with a Commandery of Knights Templar during the era of the Crusades. After several trials to test his faith, courage, and humility, he is rewarded by achieving his desire.

EVERY CHRISTIAN MASON SHOULD BE A KNIGHT TEMPLAR

The mission of the Grand Encampment of Knights Templar is: To provide every Christian Freemason the opportunity to extend his Masonic journey through the chivalric experience.

The vision of the Grand Encampment is – Templary continues to be the most prestigious Masonic organization. We are a group of men proud to wear the uniform of the cross who share a common faith, mind, and spirit. Through the practice of Christian virtues, we testify to the world that we are leaders in our community and fraternity. This demonstrates our commitment to uphold a standard of excellence within Freemasonry.

The motto of the Grand Encampment reaffirms the belief that "Every Christian Mason Should Be A Knight Templar."



CONNECTION TO THE KNIGHT TEMPLAR ORDER

The Knights Templar were formed as a result of the Crusades doing battle with the Moslems and the capture of Jerusalem around 1099. Jerusalem fell and the Holy City belonged to the Crusaders and all Christendom rejoiced. Men, women and children made a pilgrimage to the sacred city only to find that even with Jerusalem in Christian hands, the Moslems still controlled Palestine. The highways and byways leading to Jerusalem were unprotected and the Moslems continued to execute pilgrims on the roadways. Thousands of the Crusaders had returned to their own lands and left the countryside to the Moslems. This set the stage for Templary. A small band of Crusaders remained after the conquest and recognized the plight of the pilgrims. They bound themselves in a holy Brotherhood and entered into a solemn agreement to aid one another in clearing the highways, and in protecting the pilgrims traveling to the Holy City. In short, the Knights Templar were laymen who protected and defended Christians traveling to Jerusalem. These men took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and were renowned for their fierceness and courage in battle.

In 1118 A.D, these Poor Fellow Soldiers of Jesus Christ, as they termed themselves, were officially recognized, sanctioned and were given for their headquarters, a building on Mount Moriah, the site of the former Temple of King Solomon. They became known as the Knights of the Temple, or Knights Templar. Their fame spread and rulers assisted them by giving gold and land. They had more losses than wins on the battlefield. Regardless, the wealth and prestige of the Templars grew. Philip the Fair, King of France, noticed their growing wealth, and along with Pope Clement, they arranged for a Convocation of the Grand Master of the Knights Templar, Jacques DeMolay, and his officers at Paris. The Convocation was held, and in 1314 Jacques DeMolay was burned at the stake for alleged heresy and other accusations; all Knight Templar wealth was seized and Templary "moved underground."

Some have written that after the death of DeMolay there was an unbroken succession of Grand Masters and a constant Templar organization without a lapse, which is difficult to believe. To simplify the story without attempting to elaborate or quote various researchers, all we know is that when Templary emerged in the early 1700's it was a part of Freemasonry. There is no proof of a direct connection between the ancient order and the modern order.

INTERESTED IN THE CHIVALRIC ORDERS?

If you find these concepts interesting, and of value to you as a Christian Mason, please visit the Grand York Rite of Kansas website (www.kansasyorkrite.org) to locate a Commandery near you, or send an email to grand.sec.rec@ksyorkrite.net,
