

#6: Restoration of the Priesthood

Monte F. Shelley, 15 Mar. 2009

Quotes

- I take my children everywhere, but they always find their way back home.
- When you say a situation or a person is hopeless, you are slamming the door in the face of God. [Rev. Charles L. Allen]
- The best inheritance a parent can give his children is a few minutes of his time each day. [O. A. Battista]
- Real obstacles don't take you in circles. They can be overcome. Invented ones are like a maze. [Barbara Sher]

1. What is the priesthood?

“As pertaining to man’s existence on this earth, priesthood is the power and authority of God delegated to man on earth to act in all things for the salvation of men. It is the power by which the gospel is preached; by which the ordinances of salvation are performed so that they will be binding on earth and in heaven; by which men are sealed up unto eternal life, being assured of the fulness of the Father’s kingdom hereafter; and by which in due course the Lord will govern the nations of the earth and all that pertains to them” (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 136)

2. What is the purpose of the priesthood?

3. What are priesthood keys?

4. Aaronic Priesthood

5. Restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood

6. Offices of the Aaronic Priesthood

Office	Duties	Quorum
Deacon	20:57–59; 84:111	107:85
Teacher	20:53–59; 84:111	107:86
Priest	20:46–52	107:87–88
Bishop	107:13–17, 68, 71–72, 87–88	

7. Keys of the Aaronic Priesthood (D&C 13)

The lesser priesthood ... holdeth the key of the *ministering of angels* and the *preparatory gospel*; Which gospel is the gospel of *repentance and of baptism*, and the *remission of sins*, and the law of carnal commandments, which the Lord in his wrath caused to continue with the house of Aaron among the children of Israel until John [the Baptist]. (D&C 84:26–27)

The power and authority of the lesser, or Aaronic Priesthood, is to hold the keys of the *ministering of angels*, and to administer in *outward ordinances*, the letter of the *gospel*, the *baptism of repentance* for the remission of sins, agreeable to the covenants and commandments. (D&C 107:20)

Key of the ministering of angels

Gordon B. Hinckley, “That means, as I interpret it, that if you live worthy of the priesthood, you have the right to receive and enjoy the very power of heavenly beings to guide you, to protect you, to bless you” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1982, 45).

Dallin H. Oaks: The ministering of angels can occur through personal appearances and “can also be unseen. Angelic messages can be delivered by a voice or merely by thoughts or feelings communicated to the mind. ... Most angelic communications are felt or heard rather than seen” (*Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 39).

Jeffrey R. Holland: “I have spoken here of heavenly help, of angels dispatched to bless us in time of need. But when we speak of those who are instruments in the hand of God, we are reminded that not all angels are from the other side of the veil. Some of them we walk with and talk with—here, now, every day. Some of them reside in our own neighborhoods. Some of them gave birth to us, and in my case, one of them consented to marry me. Indeed heaven never seems closer than when we see the love of God manifested in the kindness and devotion of people so good and so pure that *angelic* is the only word that comes to mind.” (*Ensign*, Nov 2008, 29–31)

Keys of the preparatory gospel of repentance and baptism, and the remission of sins

The gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost. And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life; ... and ye have received the Holy Ghost. ... I suppose that ye ponder ... that which ye should do after ye have entered in by the way. ... Do ye not remember that I said ... that after ye had received the Holy Ghost ye could speak with the tongue of angels? ... Angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ. Wherefore, ... feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do. (2 Ne. 31:17–18; 32:1–3)

Duties of Aaronic Priesthood (D&C 20)

⁴⁶ The priest's duty is to preach, teach, expound, exhort, and baptize, and administer the sacrament, And visit the house of each member, and exhort them to pray vocally and in secret and attend to all family duties. ...

⁵³ The teacher's duty is to watch over the church always, and be with and strengthen them; And see that there is no iniquity in the church, neither hardness with each other, neither lying, backbiting, nor evil speaking; And see that the church meet together often, and also see that all the members do their duty. ... Neither teachers nor deacons have authority to baptize, administer the sacrament, or lay on hands; They are, however, to warn, expound, exhort, and teach, and invite all to come unto Christ.

Dallin H. Oaks: “How does the Aaronic Priesthood hold the key to the ministering of angels? ... In general, the blessings of spiritual companionship and communication are only available to those who are clean. ... Through the Aaronic Priesthood ordinances of baptism and the sacrament, we are cleansed of our sins and promised that if we keep our covenants we will always have His Spirit to be with us. I believe that promise not only refers to the Holy Ghost but also to the ministering of angels, for “angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ” (2 Ne. 32:3). So it is that those who hold the Aaronic Priesthood open the door for all Church members who worthily partake of the sacrament to enjoy the companionship of the Spirit of the Lord and the ministering of angels.” (*Ensign*, Nov 1998, 37)

8. Melchizedek Priesthood

Finding there was greater happiness and peace and rest for me, I sought for the blessings of the fathers, and the right whereunto I should be ordained to administer the same; having been myself a follower of righteousness, desiring also to be one who possessed great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of righteousness, and to possess a greater knowledge, and to be a father of many nations, a prince of peace, and desiring to receive instructions, and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers. (Abr. 1:2)

Moses ... sought diligently to sanctify his people that they might behold the face of God; But they hardened their hearts and could not endure his presence; therefore, the Lord in his wrath, for his anger was kindled against them, swore that they should not enter into his rest while in the wilderness, which rest is the fulness of his glory. Therefore, he took Moses out of their midst, and the Holy Priesthood also; (D&C 84:23 - 25)

“Was the Priesthood of Melchizedek taken away when Moses died? All Priesthood is Melchizedek, but there are different portions or degrees of it. That portion which brought Moses to speak with God face to face was taken away; but that which brought the ministry of angels remained. All the prophets had the Melchizedek Priesthood and were ordained by God himself.” (TPJS 181 [184])

9. Restoration of the Melchizedek Priesthood

10. Offices of the Melchizedek Priesthood

Office	Duties	Quorum
Elder	20:38–45; 42:43–44; 43:15–16; 107:11–12	107:89; 124:137
High priest	107:10, 12, 17	124:133, 136
Patriarch	124:91–93, 124	
Seventy	107:25, 34, 38, 97	107:25–26; 107:93–96; 124:138–39
Apostle	27:12–13; 107:23, 33, 35, 39, 58; 112:30–32; 124:128	107:23–24

We believe in the same organization that existed in the Primitive Church, namely, apostles, prophets, *pastors*, teachers, *evangelists*, and so forth. (A of F 6)

“Inasmuch as ye impart of your substance unto the poor, ye will do it unto me; and they shall be laid before the bishop of my church and his counselors, two of the elders, or high priests, such as he shall appoint or has appointed and set apart for that purpose.” (D&C 42:31)

11. Keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood

Authority to administer the gospel of Jesus Christ (84:18–22)

This greater priesthood *administereth the gospel* and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest. And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; For without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live.

Keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church

The power and authority of the higher, or Melchizedek Priesthood, is to hold the *keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church*—To have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, to have the heavens opened unto them, to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn, and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the mediator of the new covenant. (107:18–19)

The right of presidency

The Melchizedek Priesthood holds the right of presidency, and has power and authority over all the offices in the church in all ages of the world, to administer in spiritual things. (107:8)

Keys of the gathering of Israel (Moses), the gospel of the dispensation of Abraham (Elias), and the sealing power (Elijah) (110:11–16)

12. Priesthood Ordinances

Old Testament Priesthood Ordinances

Catholic Priesthood Sacraments

- Baptism
- Eucharist (Holy Communion, Lord’s Supper)
- Confirmation
- Priesthood orders
- Penance and reconciliation (confession)
- Anointing of the sick (extreme unction or final anointing, last rites)
- Marriage

Protestants accept only the first two as being ordained by Christ

LDS Priesthood Ordinances

- Naming and blessing children
- Baptizing
- Confirming
- Administering the sacrament
- Consecrating oil
- Administering to the sick
- Dedicating graves
- Blessings (Father’s; comfort)
- Conferring priesthood and ordaining to office
- Setting apart
- Temple Ordinances (Endowment, *Marriage)

13. Ordinances and Covenants

A purpose of the priesthood is to help people understand, make, and keep covenants.

14. Blessings of the priesthood for all people

The Lord ... doeth that which is good among the children of men; ... and he inviteth them all to come unto him and partake of his goodness; and he denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; and he remembereth the heathen; and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile. (2 Ne. 26:33)

Quote

President Stephen L Richards: “The Priesthood is usually simply defined as ‘the power of God delegated to man.’ ... This definition, I think, is accurate. But for practical purposes I like to define the Priesthood in terms of service and I frequently call it ‘the perfect plan of service.’ ” (quoted by Thomas S. Monson, “Duty Calls,” *Ensign*, May 1996, 43)