



The Gospel Doctrine Class



Doctrine & Covenants - Lesson 8

The Restoration of the Priesthood

“While we were thus employed, praying and calling upon the Lord, a messenger from heaven descended in a cloud of light, and having laid his hands upon us, he ordained us” (JS-History 1:68)

D&C 13; 20:38–67; 27:12–13; 84:6–30; 107:1–20;
110:11–16; JS—History 1:66–73

A study of this lesson will help us increase our appreciation for the restoration of the priesthood, to encourage brethren to magnify their offices and callings in the priesthood, and to help all members enjoy more fully the blessings of the priesthood.

President Joseph Fielding Smith: "There is no doubt about Satan having great power and that he can appear as an angel of light. In this form he appeared on the banks of the Susquehanna River to oppose the restoration of keys, and was detected by Michael, and his plans were thwarted." (Answers To Gospel Questions, 1:177)

Joseph Smith: "The Priesthood is an everlasting principle, and existed with God from eternity, and will to eternity, without beginning of days or end of years. The keys have to be brought from heaven whenever the Gospel is sent. When they are revealed from heaven, it is by Adam's authority." (History of the Church, 3:386)

Oscar W. McConkie: "The administration of angels need not be as dramatic as were those of the restoring agents from on high. Angels may minister and the recipient need not know the source of his strength or joy. For example, one person may be helped while speaking from the pulpit, while another may receive guidance at a critical junction in his life. In some instances a third party has been aware of the presence of angels while the party actually concerned was apparently unaware of their presence." (Aaronic Priesthood, p101)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks stated that 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, p39)

Elder Dallin H. Oaks: "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 Nephi 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, p39)

Joseph Smith said that the "Melchizedek Priesthood . . . is the channel through which all knowledge, doctrine, the plan of salvation and every important matter is revealed from heaven." (TPJS, pp166-67)

"The priesthood is the eternal power and authority of God. It is the power by which He created and governs the heavens and the earth. It is also the power by which He redeems and exalts His children. He gives a portion of His priesthood power and authority to worthy male members of the Church so they can preach the gospel, administer the ordinances of salvation, and govern His kingdom on earth." (Lesson Manual)

Joseph Smith: "After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost, (by the laying on of hands), which is the first Comforter, then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted.

"When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure, then it will be his privilege to receive the other Comforter, which the Lord hath promised the Saints, as is recorded in the testimony of St. John, in the 14th chapter, from the 12th to the 27th verses." (TPJS, p150)

"The keys of the kingdom of God on earth are held by the apostles. The president of the church, who is the senior apostle, holds all the keys presently on earth and presides over all the organizational and ordinance work of the Church (D&C 107:8-9, 91-92). He delegates authority by giving the keys of specific offices to others (D&C 124:123). Only presiding priesthood officers (including General Authorities, stake presidents, mission presidents, temple presidents, bishops, branch presidents, and quorum presidents) hold keys pertaining to their respective offices. Latter-day Saints distinguish between holding the priesthood and holding keys to direct the work of the priesthood: one does not receive additional priesthood when one is given keys (Joseph F. Smith, IE 4 [Jan. 1901]:230)." (Encyclopedia of Mormon-ism, p780)

Next Week's Reading Assignment

D&C 20:1–36, 68–69, 75–79; 21; 27; 115:1–4
Our Heritage, pages 14–16