

## D & C Lesson 25

### PRIESTHOOD: “THE POWER OF GODLINESS”

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, July 2001

#### 1. Order in the restoration of the priesthood and its offices [an incomplete listing]

##### *Early:*

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|--|-------------------------------|
| A. Aaronic Priesthood: May 15, 1829                    | [D&C 13:1; 27:7-8]            |
| B. Melchizedek Priesthood, Apostles: May or June, 1829 | [D&C 128:20; 27:12; 20:38]    |
| C. Elders, priests, teachers, deacons: April, 1830     | [D&C 20:38-60]                |
| D. Bishop: February 4, 1831                            | [D&C 41:9-11]                 |
| E. High Priests: June 1831                             | [D&C 52: heading]             |
| F. First Presidency: March, 1832, March 18, 1833       | [D&C 81:1-7; 90:6-12]         |
| G. Patriarch: December 18, 1833                        | [TPJS pp. 38-39]              |
| H. High Council: February 17, 1834                     | [D&C 102:1-34]                |
| I. Quorum of the Twelve Apostles: 1835                 | [D&C 107:23-24, 33; 18:31-38] |
| J. Seventies: 1835                                     | [D&C 107:25]                  |
| K. First Quorum of the Seventy: 1835                   | [D&C 107:26, 93-97]           |

##### *Recent:*

- L. First Quorum of the Seventy (as General Authorities): 1975; Second Quorum of the Seventy: 1989
- M. Area Authorities: April 1995
- N. Area Authorities ordained Seventies, Third, Fourth and Fifth Quorums of the Seventy: 1997

#### 2. Major D&C sections on the priesthood

- A. *D&C 20* - basic duties of elders, priests, teachers, deacons revealed
- B. *D&C 84* - The line of the priesthood from Adam to Moses; roles of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods, the oath and covenant of the Priesthood
- C. *D&C 107* - Explains the Melchizedek and Aaronic priesthoods, roles of the First Presidency, the Twelve Apostles and the Seventies

#### 3. Priesthood blessings are for women too

A. *Joseph Fielding Smith*: “The blessings of the priesthood are not confined to men alone. These blessings are also poured out . . . upon all the faithful women of the Church. . . . The Lord offers to his daughters every spiritual gift and blessing that can be obtained by his sons, for neither is the man without the woman, nor the woman without the man in the Lord.” [*Improvement Era*, June 1970, p. 66] See *Alma 32:23*.

#### 4. The role of Melchizedek

A. Melchizedek was a great high priest! [See *Gen. 14:18-20; Heb. 7:1-4; 5:6; JST Gen. 14:25-40; Al. 13:14-19; D&C 84:14; 107:1-4*]

B. Before his day the higher priesthood “was called the *Holy Priesthood, after the Order of the Son of God*. But out of respect or reverence to the name of the Supreme Being, to avoid the too frequent repetition of his name, they, the church, in ancient days, called that priesthood after

Melchizedek, or the Melchizedek Priesthood.” [107:2-5]

## 5. **The oath and covenant of the Priesthood** [D&C 84:33-48]

A. **Carlos E. Asay:** “Of all the holy agreements pertaining to the gospel of Jesus Christ, few, if any, would transcend in importance the oath and covenant of the priesthood. It is certainly one of the most sacred agreements, for *it involves the sharing of heavenly powers and man’s upward reaching toward eternal goals.*” [Ensign, November 1985, p. 43]

### B. **Priesthood holders covenant to:**

1. Be faithful in obtaining the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods. [D&C 84:33]
2. Magnify their calling. [84:33] **Gordon B. Hinckley:** “We *magnify our priesthood and enlarge our calling* when we serve with diligence and enthusiasm in those responsibilities to which we are called by proper authority. . . . We magnify our calling, we *enlarge the potential of our priesthood* when we reach out to those in distress and give strength to those who falter . . . . We magnify our calling when we walk with honesty and integrity.” [Ensign, May 1989, pp. 48-49]
3. Receive the Lord’s servants. [84:36]
4. “Give diligent heed to the words of eternal life. For you shall live by every word that proceedeth forth from the mouth of God.” [84:43-44]

### C. **God the Father covenants to:**

1. Sanctify us by the Spirit. [84:33]
2. Renew our bodies. [84:33]
3. Give us the blessings promised to Abraham and his posterity. [84:34] (See *Abra. 2:9-11.*)
4. Make us members of his church, kingdom, and his elect, or chosen. [84:34]
5. Give us admittance to the Father’s kingdom, and *all that the Father has.* [84:38]
6. Give his angels charge over us. [84:42]
7. The Father cannot break nor move this covenant; only man can do so. [84:40-41]

## 6. **Using the priesthood in righteousness** [D&C 121:34-46]

### A. **The rights of the priesthood can only be controlled with righteousness.** [vv. 34-40]

1. **Russell M. Ballard:** “Those who hold the priesthood must never forget that they have no right to wield priesthood authority like a club over the heads of others in the family or in Church callings. . . . Any man who . . . seeks to use the priesthood in any degree of unrighteousness in the Church or in the home simply does not understand the nature of his authority. *Priesthood is for service, not servitude; compassion, not compulsion; caring, not control.*” [Ensign, November 1993, p. 78]

### B. **“No power or influence ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood.”** [vv. 41-46]

1. “*Betimes* means ‘promptly’ or ‘soon.’ In the context of this passage, *with sharpness* means ‘clearly’ or ‘precisely,’ not ‘severely’ or ‘roughly.’” [Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual, 1999, p. 143]

## **. Essential facts about the Priesthood**

A. Priesthood came down “from the beginning, or before the foundation of the earth, down to the present time.” [*Abra. 1:3*] See *Moses 6:7*.

B. “Priesthood continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years.” [*D&C 84:17*]

C. The patriarchal order of the priesthood was instituted in the days of Adam. [*107:40-41*]

D. “This greater priesthood [the Melchizedek Priesthood] administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God. And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto man in the flesh; for without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live. [*84:19-22*]

E. “The rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven.” [*121:36*]

F. “The power of the priesthood, . . . wherein it is granted that whatsoever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” [*128:8*]

G. “No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned; by kindness, and pure knowledge.” [*121:41-42*]

H. [Those who inherit the Celestial Kingdom]: “They are they who are priests and kings, who have received of his fulness and of his glory; and are priests of the Most High, after the order of Melchizedek, which was after the order of Enoch, which was after the order of the Only Begotten Son.” [*76:56-57*]