

Lesson 78

Suggested Hymn:  
#10 Come Sing to the  
Lord

# Alma Speaks of the Melchizedek Priesthood

Alma 13



# Calling High Priests



Two priesthoods:  
Melchizedek and Aaronic—includes Levitical

Melchisedec—Melchizedek  
The Higher Priesthood



## **Anciently Called:**

"The Holy Order of the Son of God"

To avoid being too frequent in repetition of his name, they, the church, in ancient days, called that after Melchizedek."

D&C 107: 1-3

JFM and RLM



# Christ—the Great High Priest

They were commissioned to teach  
the gospel from the time of Adam to  
the time of Moses

All who were ordained to the priestly office in  
ancient days were thought of as types or  
prophecies of him.



“All priesthood is Melchizedek, but there are  
different portions or degree of it”  
Joseph Smith

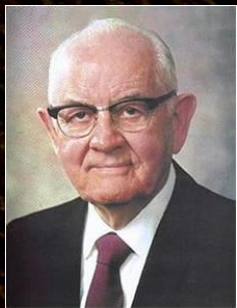


# Foreordained

Priesthood holders were called and prepared before the foundation of the world because of their faith and good works

“Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was. I suppose that I was ordained to this very office in that Grand Council.”  
Joseph Smith





“In the world before we came here, faithful women were given certain assignments while faithful men were foreordained to certain priesthood tasks. While we do not now remember the particulars, this does not alter the glorious reality of what we once agreed to.”



**Priesthood  
leaders teach  
the Lord's  
commandments  
to the children  
of men so they  
might enter into  
His rest**



# Rest

Enjoyment of peace and freedom from worry and turmoil. The Lord has promised such rest to His faithful followers during this life. He has also prepared a place of rest for them in the next life.”

Guide to the Scriptures



# Foreordination

Called and Prepared

“As the Grand council in Heaven Christ was called and ordained to his early ministry, so were all who minister in his name first called in heavenly councils, where they too were ordained to the labors that would be theirs in mortality.”

JFM and RLM

“All prophets had the Melchizedek Priesthood and were ordained by God himself.”

Joseph Smith



No one is called to a position who is not properly prepared



# Melchizedek Priesthood

When were Melchizedek Priesthood holders first called and prepared?  
(See Alma 13:3–5.)

What duty do all Melchizedek Priesthood holders have?  
(See Alma 13:6.)

What phrases in Alma 13:7 describe the Melchizedek Priesthood?

What are some qualifications for being ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood?  
(See Alma 13:10.)



# Blessings

Through the Melchizedek Priesthood:

The gift of the Holy Ghost

Patriarchal blessings and other priesthood blessings

The leadership of General Authorities and leadership of local leaders such as bishops or branch presidents.



The blessings you have received through the covenants your parents have made in the temple

Baptism

Partaking of the sacrament, which are performed by the authority of the Aaronic Priesthood but under the direction of Melchizedek Priesthood leaders.





# Magnify Your Callings

The High Priests chose to repent and work righteousness

*“For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies.”  
D&C 84:33*

“Men are entrusted with the priesthood so that they may serve and bless others. Through faithfulness... they sanctify their own souls...”

Alma 13:10-11



*“Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.*

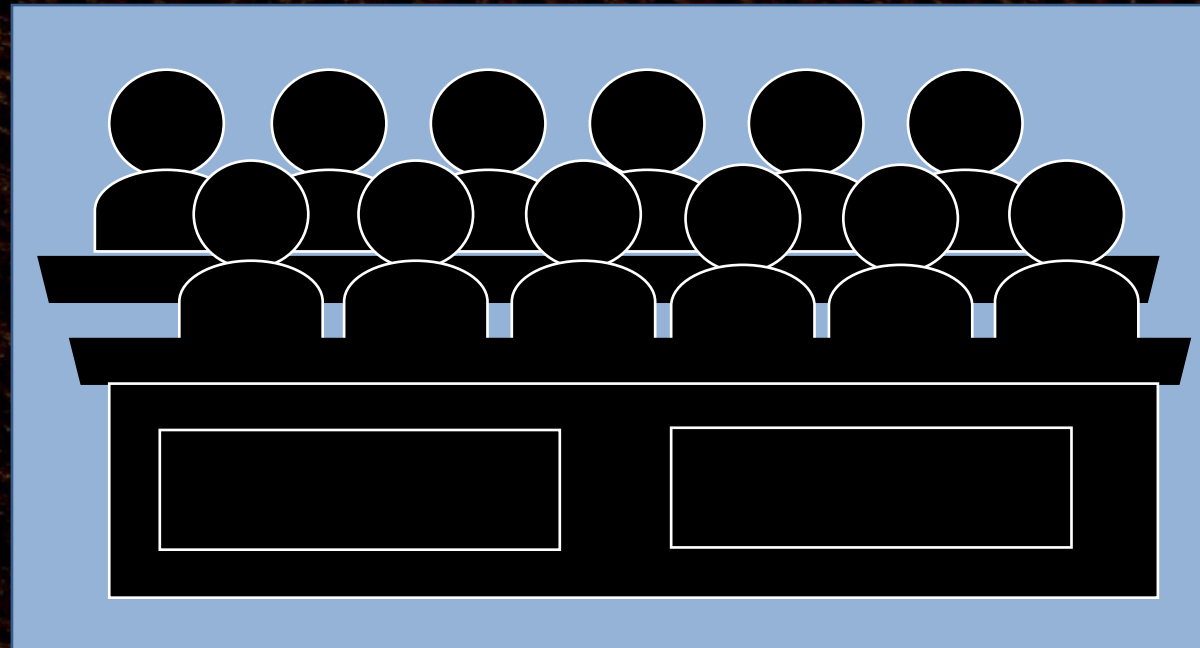
*Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;  
For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul;  
D&C 4:2-4*



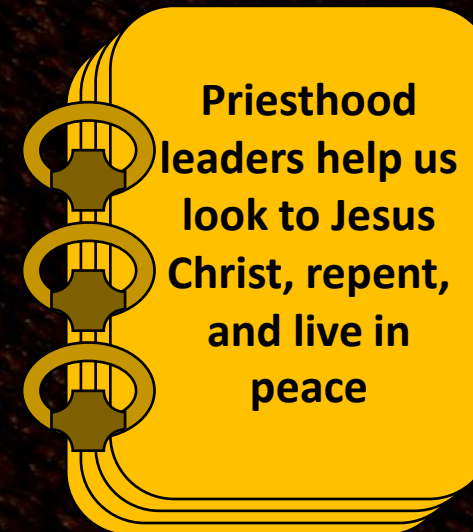
# Priestcraft VS Priesthood



People of Ammonihah--  
Professors of Nehor:  
False order of priesthood called  
priestcraft  
Alma 14:18 and Alma 1:12-15



Blessings through Melchizedek  
Priesthood:  
Having the spirit of prophecy  
Having the spirit of revelation  
The gift of speaking with tongues  
The gift of preaching  
The gift of the Holy Ghost  
The gift of translation



# Melchizedek—A Type of Christ

He was introduced in the Book of Mormon by Alma in around 82 BC—“none were greater”

He was a King over the land of Salem

He exercised mighty faith and received the office of the high priesthood

He preached repentance to the people

The people repented and they established peace in their land

He was called the Prince of Peace

He received tithes from Abraham—He was keeper of the storehouse (JST Genesis 14:37-39)

He ordained Abraham (D&C 84:14)

He was called the king of heaven...the King of Peace  
(JST Genesis 14:26-40)



# Wrest Them--Scriptures

*"Some profess to accept the voice of heaven, but only after having distorted its purpose to suit their own."*



*"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."*

*2 Peter 3:16*



Those who wrest in the scriptures:

"Webster states that to wrest is to 'turn or twist; to ascribe a wrong meaning or intent to; to deliberately misinterpret or distort.' The Lord warned against wresting the scriptures (D&C 10:63).

Taking what is truth and embellishing on it as fantasy

Stretching a text beyond what is meant

Not giving the text an appropriate application—meaning

Taking the plain meaning and twisting to mean something else

Picking and choosing which scripture suits yourself



# Alma Announces Christ's Birth

The Day of Salvation

Glad tidings of Great Joy

Preparation of hearts to receive  
the word

Joyful News

Made known to Holy Men

Prophecies being fulfilled

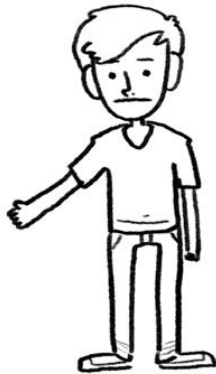


Jeremy Winborg



# Humble

If we humble ourselves and watch and pray continually, we will not be tempted above what we are able to bear



“There is nothing wrong with feeling pleased with the results of our hard work. But it is also important to recognize God’s hand in the things we are able to accomplish...”

“There is no place for arrogance in our lives,” President Hinckley stated. “There is no place for conceit. There is no place for egotism.”

Arrogance, conceit, and egotism will stifle our ability to receive personal revelation, and may also damage our relationships with others...”

Being humble not only helps us in relationships, but it also gives us the opportunity to receive direction and guidance from our Heavenly Father.

Caroline H. Benzley



# Enter Into His Rest



“The ancient prophets speak of ‘entering into God’s rest’;  
what does it mean?”

To my mind, it means entering into the knowledge and love  
of God, having faith in his purpose and in his plan, to such an  
extent that we know we are right, and that we are not  
hunting for something else.”

Joseph F. Smith

**As we respond  
humbly to the  
invitation to  
repent, the  
Spirit will lead  
us into the rest  
of the Lord.**

“True saints enter into the *rest of the Lord* while in this life, and by abiding in the truth, they continue in that blessed state until they rest with the Lord in heaven. ... The rest of the Lord, in eternity, is to inherit eternal life, to gain the fulness of the Lord’s glory.”

Bruce R. McConkie



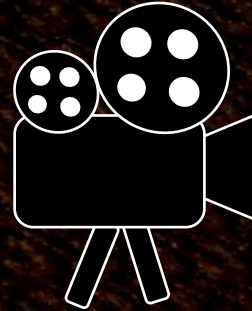
Sources:

Videos:

Foreordained to Bear the Priesthood (0:33)

Ordinary Men and Women Can Be Made Pure (0:51)

Foreordination (0:41)



Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol. 3 pg. 93

Joseph Smith Teachings pg. 180-181; (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 511).

President Spencer W. Kimball (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball*[2006], 215–16).

Joseph F. Smith, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* [1998], 56).

Caroline H. Benzley *Be Humble* 2002 September New Era

Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. [1966], 633).





## Other Quotes for Alma 13:3-5

### **President Joseph Fielding Smith:**

“God gave his children their free agency even in the [premortal] spirit world, by which the individual spirits had the privilege, just as men have here, of choosing the good and rejecting the evil, or partaking of the evil to suffer the consequences of their sins. Because of this, some even there were more faithful than others in keeping the commandments of the Lord. ...

“The spirits of men had their free agency. ... *The spirits of men were not equal. They may have had an equal start*, and we know they were all innocent in the beginning; but the right of free agency which was given to them enabled some to outstrip others, and thus, through the eons of immortal existence, to become more intelligent, more faithful, for they were free to act for themselves, to think for themselves, to receive the truth or rebel against it” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 1:58–59).

### **President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught:**

“No more profound truth has been conveyed to us in the restoration than the knowledge of our premortal existence. No other church knows or teaches this truth. The doctrine is given only in outline form, but salient facts are repeated often enough in the revelations to assure us of certain fundamental truths.

“... The few crucial facts we know about our status in premortal life are these: ‘Man was also in the beginning with God.’ (D&C 93:29.) We lived in the presence of God, our Eternal Father; we are His offspring. Intelligence, or spirit, was organized as spirit bodies before the world was. (See Abraham 3:22.) Each of us was endowed with agency. Authority was conferred and leaders were chosen. (Alma 13:1–4.)” (*Our Father’s Plan* [1984], 14–15).

### ***True to the Faith* includes the following explanation of foreordination:**

“In the premortal spirit world, God appointed certain spirits to fulfill specific missions during their mortal lives. This is called foreordination.

“Foreordination does not guarantee that individuals will receive certain callings or responsibilities. Such opportunities come in this life as a result of the righteous exercise of agency, just as foreordination came as a result of righteousness in the premortal existence. ...

“The doctrine of foreordination applies to all members of the Church, not just to the Savior and His prophets. Before the creation of the earth, faithful women were given certain responsibilities and faithful men were foreordained to certain priesthood duties. Although you do not remember that time, you surely agreed to fulfill significant tasks in the service of your Father. As you prove yourself worthy, you will be given opportunities to fulfill the assignments you then received” (*True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* [2004], 69–70).

### **Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught:**

“Premortality is not a relaxing doctrine. For each of us, there are choices to be made, incessant and difficult chores to be done, ironies and adversities to be experienced, time to be well spent, talents and gifts to be well employed. Just because we were chosen ‘there and then,’ surely does not mean we can be indifferent ‘here and now.’ Whether foreordination for men, or foredesignation for women, those called and prepared must also prove ‘chosen, and faithful.’ (See Rev. 17:14; [D&C 121:34–36](#))” (“Premortality, a Glorious Reality,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 17).

### **Wrest Alma 13:20:**

"**President Joseph Fielding Smith** gave the following counsel regarding wresting or misinterpreting the scriptures: 'It is wrong to take one passage of scripture and isolate it from all other teachings dealing with the same subject. We should bring together all that has been said by authority on the question. If we were to make a photograph, it would be necessary for all of your rays of light to be focused properly on the subject. If this were not done then a blurred picture would be the result. This is the case when we try to obtain a mental picture, when we have only a portion of the facts dealing with the subject we are considering.' (DS 2:95.)

"The **Prophet Joseph** gave the key whereby scriptures are to be interpreted: 'What is the rule of interpretation?' he asked. 'Just no interpretation at all. Understand it precisely as it reads. I have a key by which I understand the scriptures. I enquire, what was the question which drew out the answer, or caused Jesus to utter the parable?' (*TPJS*, p. 276-7)." (Hoyt W. Brewster, Jr., *Doctrine and Covenants Encyclopedia*, p. 651)