

Thomas B. Marsh

Doctrine and Covenants 112



*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
Matthew 28:19*



Have You Ever Experienced...

Anger



Frustration



Being Offended



Jealousy



Background



1835

Thomas B. Marsh Called an Apostle and appointed President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Nov. 1836

Kirtland Safety Society created

Jan. 1837

Contentions among the Saints

Spring 1837

President Marsh learned that one of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Parley P. Pratt, was planning a mission to England without President Marsh's direction

June 1837

Elders Heber C. Kimball and Orson Hyde, departed for England after receiving mission calls from the Prophet Joseph Smith.

July 24, 1837

President Marsh, who was in Missouri, wrote to Elder Pratt and the other members of the Twelve and invited them to meet him in Kirtland, Ohio, on July 24, 1837, so they could be unified in their plans for missions

On July 23, 1837, the Prophet Joseph Smith received a revelation for Thomas B. Marsh recorded in D&C 112, the only revelation given in 1837

President Marsh was apparently upset that members of the Twelve were proceeding to preach the gospel in England without his involvement.

RECAP

Thomas B. Marsh

He was born November 1, 1800 in Acton, Massachusetts to James Marsh and Mary Law

He became acquainted with Martin Harris, while on a visit to Palmyra, who gave him a sheet containing the first 16 pages of the Book of Mormon

He and his wife gained a testimony and was baptized by David Whitmer on September 3, 1830 and later ordained an elder

He was called to the Quorum of the Twelve and served as president in 1835

He was called on a mission to Canada with Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon

In 1838 his wife, Elizabeth Godkin, and the wife of George W. Harris, Lucinda, had a dispute and there became a rift between Thomas and the priesthood

He was excommunicated in 1839

He made his way to Salt Lake City in 1857, confessed his sins, and received full fellowship as a member of the Church

He wrote an autobiography in 1864, recounting his Church service and rebellion. It was published in the *Millennial Star* and he died in January of 1866 and buried in Ogden City Cemetery

Sections 31 and 112 are dedicated to him



Quorum of the Twelve

On 14 February 1835, the first Quorum of the Twelve in this dispensation was organized, its members chosen to be special witnesses of the Savior throughout the world.

The Twelve were arranged in seniority according to age. Elder Thomas B. Marsh, being the oldest, became President of the Quorum and thus responsible for the other eleven.



Since that time, seniority in the Quorum has been determined by date of ordination.

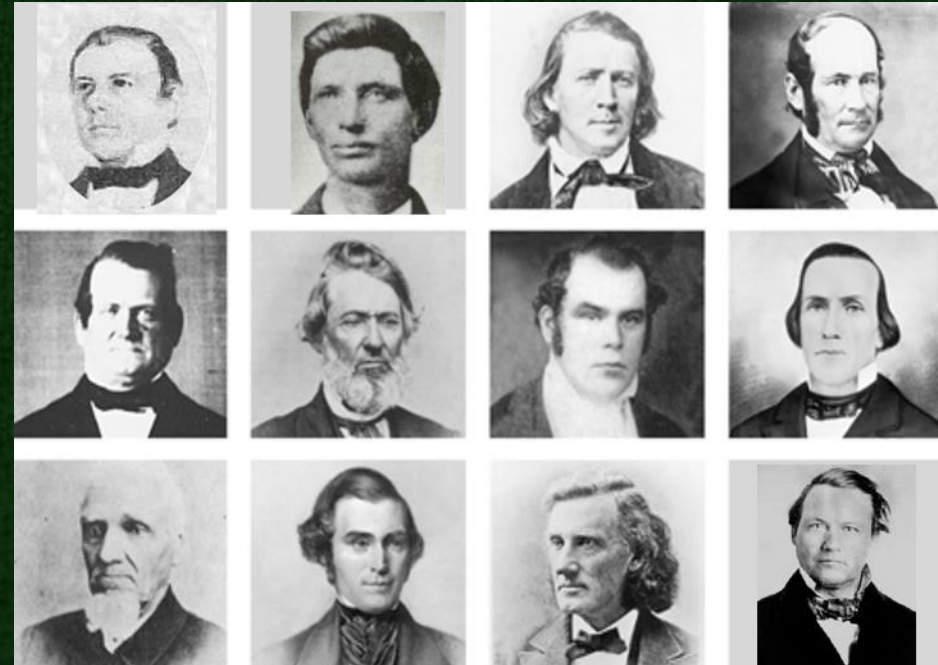
1836

Members of the original Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

Top row, left to right: Thomas B. Marsh, David W. Patten, Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball.

Middle row: Orson Hyde, William E. M'Lellin, Parley P. Pratt, Luke S. Johnson.

Bottom row: William B. Smith, Orson Pratt, John F. Boynton, Lyman E. Johnson.



Abased

Cause to be humbled

Thomas B. Marsh, at this time, was sincere in his prayers and sacrifices, which is proved by the fact that the Lord had accepted them. As the President of the council of Twelve Apostles, he had their welfare at heart.



“Forgiveness comes only to those who are humble and truly repentant.”

Bear Record—Sent Forth

The office and calling

As an Apostle, it is the office and calling to preach the gospel, administer the ordinances of the church, heal the sick, and perform mighty works, plant and set churches in order, and ordain to the Priesthood and offices in the Church.



And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

Matthew 10:1



And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed. Acts 14:23

Council to Thomas B. Marsh

Testify of Christ

Contend thou—Early 19th century—
"use earnest effort to obtain, or to
defend and preserve."

Webster Dictionary 1828

Remove not thy house



Courtesy Alexander L. Baugh/Lorene E. Pollard and LDS History Library

Publish Thy Name—make gospel
known among all men

D&C 112:4-6

"In 1832, Thomas B. Marsh received an inheritance—about thirty acres—on the Big Blue river, Missouri, and there he built a comfortable log house. When the Saints were driven from Jackson County, he went to Lafayette County, while most of the exiles sought refuge in Clay County. In 1834, he, too, went to Clay County. After an extended visit to Kirtland, he returned to his home on Fishing River, Clay County. In 1836, he built a house in Far West.

In June 1837, he again visited Kirtland. It was necessary, for the success of his mission, that his residence in Zion should be known, and that his house should not be moved."

Smith and Sjodahl

Thomas B. Marsh's Mission

Four days after this revelation was given, the Prophet Joseph Smith, along with Sidney Rigdon and Thomas B. Marsh, started for Canada to visit the members of the Church

History of the Church, 2:502



The Savior had other opportunities for Thomas B. Marsh to bear witness to the nations is apparent from this verse.

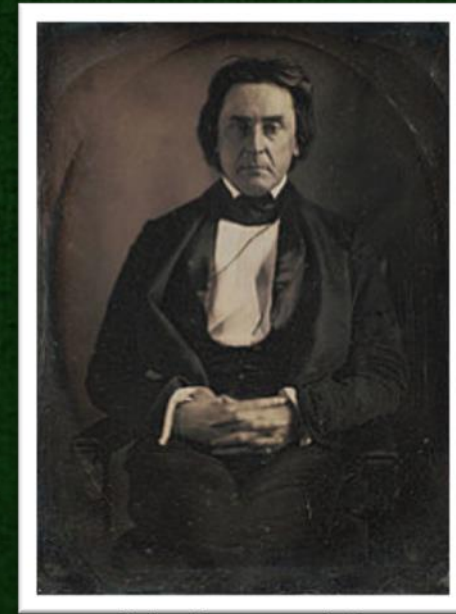
They were not realized, however, since Thomas B. Marsh later apostatized and left the Church.

The Speaker

Thomas B. Marsh was a power speaker.

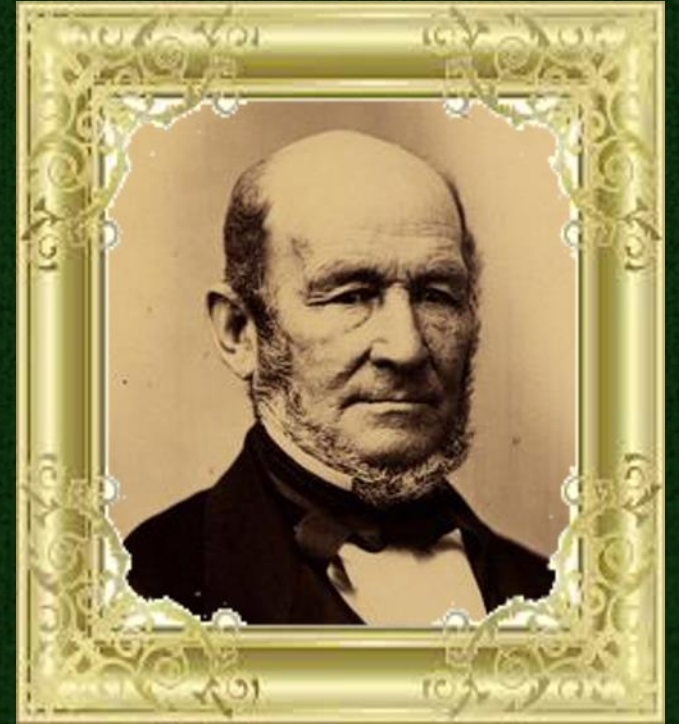
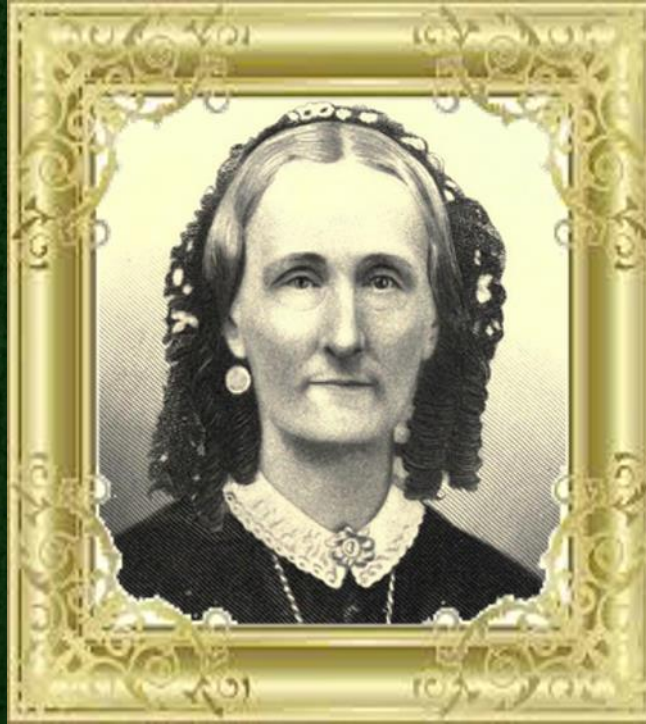
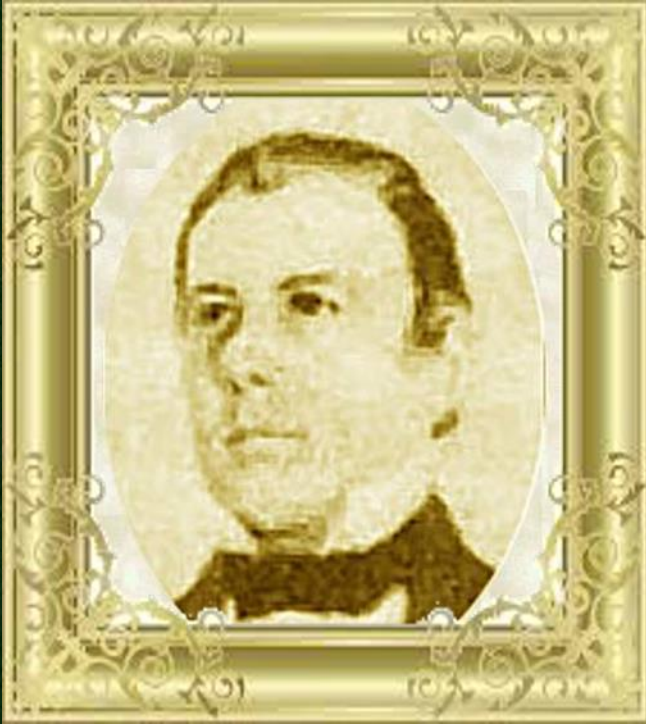
In 1836, he was a member of a committee selected to pass resolutions on behalf of the exiled Saints, at a meeting at the City of Liberty.

On that occasion, he spoke of the persecution the Saints had suffered, so eloquently that General Atchinson and others wept.



David Rice Atchinson

Pride



Thomas B. Marsh told Vilate Kimball that her husband, Elder Heber C. Kimball, would not be effective on his mission in England. President Marsh apparently felt that because proclaiming the gospel abroad was his responsibility, the door to missionary work in England could not be opened until he either sent someone or went himself.

A Matter of Milk

In September 1838, while Thomas was beset by this spirit of apostasy, his wife, Elizabeth, became involved in a dispute.

She and another woman, Mrs. Harris, both members of the Church, had agreed to regularly exchange milk to have enough to make cheese, but Sister Marsh was accused of violating her agreement by keeping the part of the milk that was richest in cream.

The matter was brought before Church leaders more than once. It was even brought before the First Presidency. Each time, it was decided that Sister Marsh was at fault. President Marsh was angry and unsatisfied with these decisions.



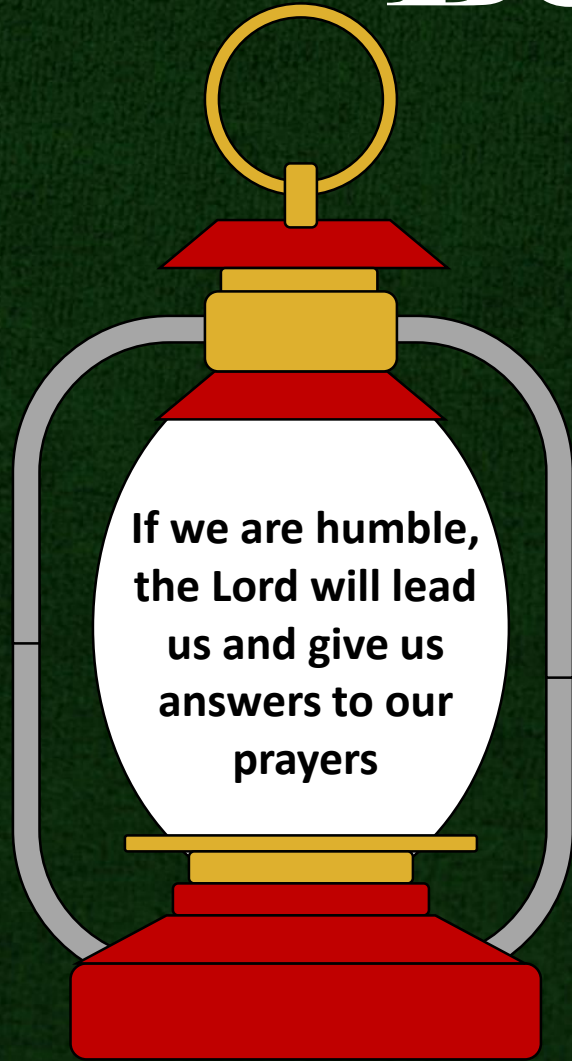
Picture of Mary Ann Darrow



Picture of Christiane Monberg

While this situation did not lead him to leave the Church, it compounded with his other frustrations.

Be Thou Humble



President Thomas B. Marsh's pride led to his eventual apostasy. His excommunication is a poignant reminder that the Lord has counseled his Saints to be humble.

"Pride was the weakness of Thomas B. Marsh. If he had been humble, he would not have fallen.

He began by defying the righteous decisions of the High Council and the First Presidency, in a trivial case in which his wife was interested, and he ended by [opposing] the Church."

Thomas B. Marsh eventually repented and was rebaptized.

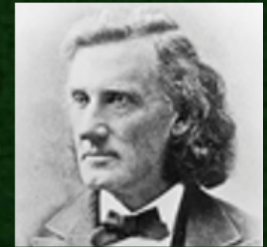
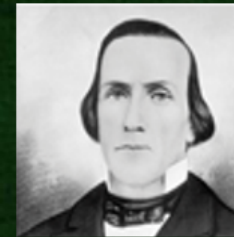
Humility of Those in Church Positions

“Orson Hyde, who had imbibed of the spirit of speculation, freely acknowledged his faults and asked forgiveness.



Parley P. Pratt, too, at one time was overcome by the evil spirit, of strife, but, he says, ‘I went to Brother Joseph Smith in tears, and with a broken heart and contrite spirit, confessed wherein I had erred. He frankly forgave me, prayed for me, blessed me.’

Others did not repent. Luke S. Johnson, Lyman E. Johnson, and John F. Boynton were rejected and disfellowshipped by the Church on the 3rd of September, 1837, less than a month and a half after this Revelation (D&C 112) was given.”



Humility in Serving God



“We don’t discover humility by thinking less *of* ourselves; we discover humility by thinking less *about* ourselves. It comes as we go about our work with an attitude of serving God and our fellowman.

“... The moment we stop obsessing with ourselves and lose ourselves in service, our pride diminishes and begins to die.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf



Service Learning Students Brickmaking 2012

Joseph Smith's Position as President and Prophet

Several passages in the Doctrine and Covenants show that when the Lord spoke of Joseph Smith, his statements pertained also to Joseph's position as President and prophet of the Church.

“The keys of the Priesthood were committed to Joseph, to build up the Kingdom of God on the earth, and were not to be taken from him in time or in eternity”
President Brigham Young

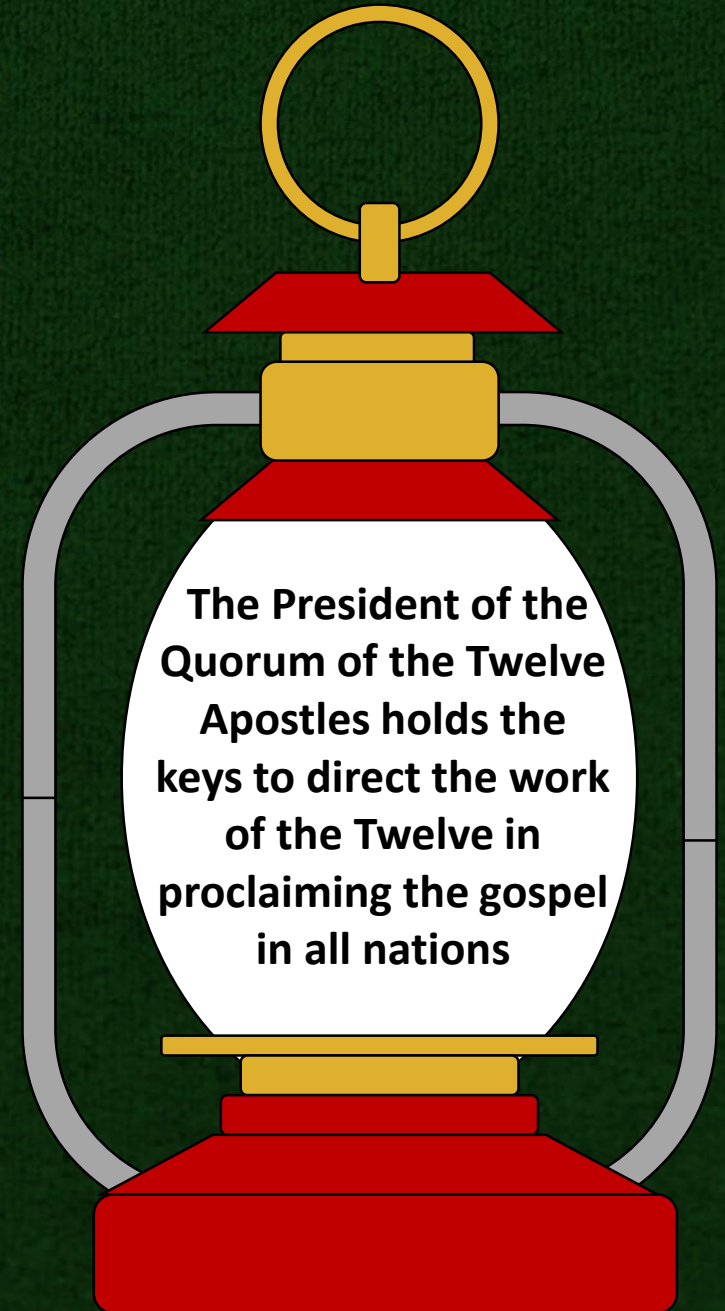


“Joseph Smith was called to stand at the head of the Dispensation of the Fulness of Times, preparatory to the second advent of the Son of God”

So, in addition to holding the keys of the kingdom, the Prophet Joseph Smith also held the keys of this dispensation, and these keys will never be taken from him.”



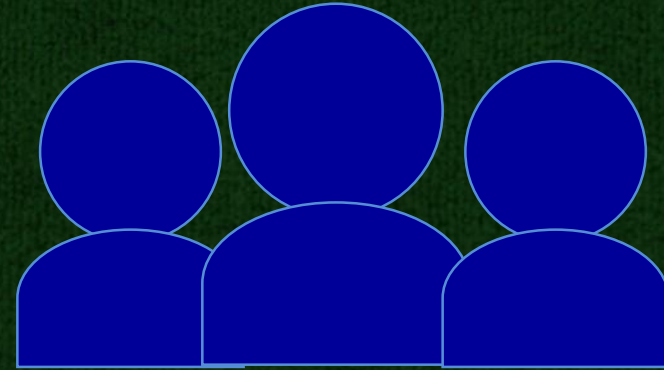
President M. Russell Ballard has served as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints since October 6, 1985. He was set apart as Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles by President Russell M. Nelson on January 14, 2018.



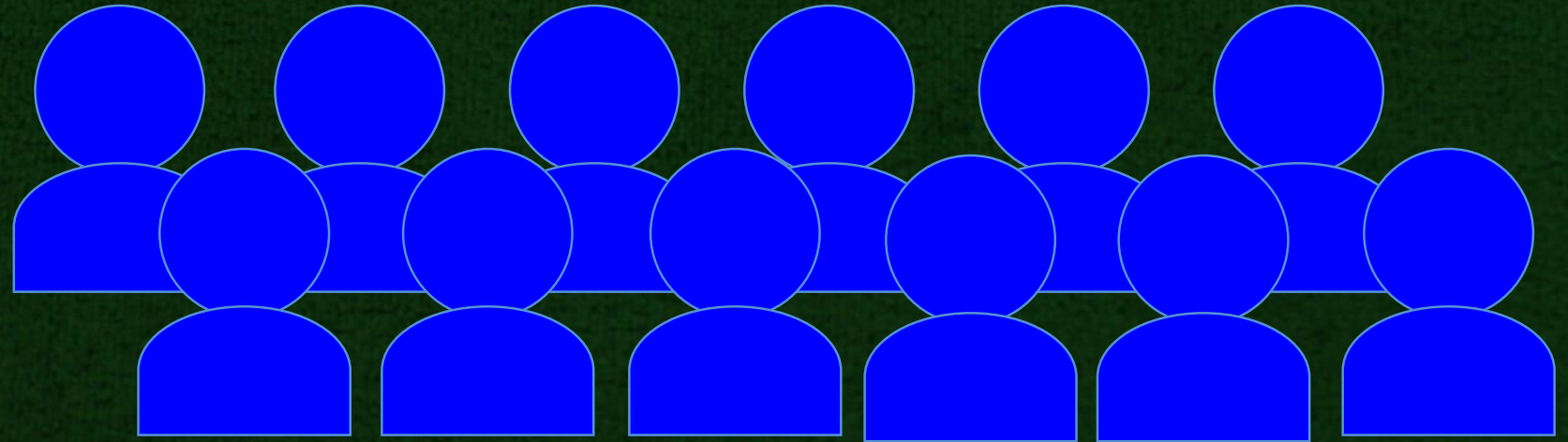
Counselors to the Twelve

The First Presidency, the Lord said, were to be counselors to the Twelve. By this is meant that the twelve **should not** go forth without the counsel and direction of the First Presidency.”

President Joseph Fielding Smith

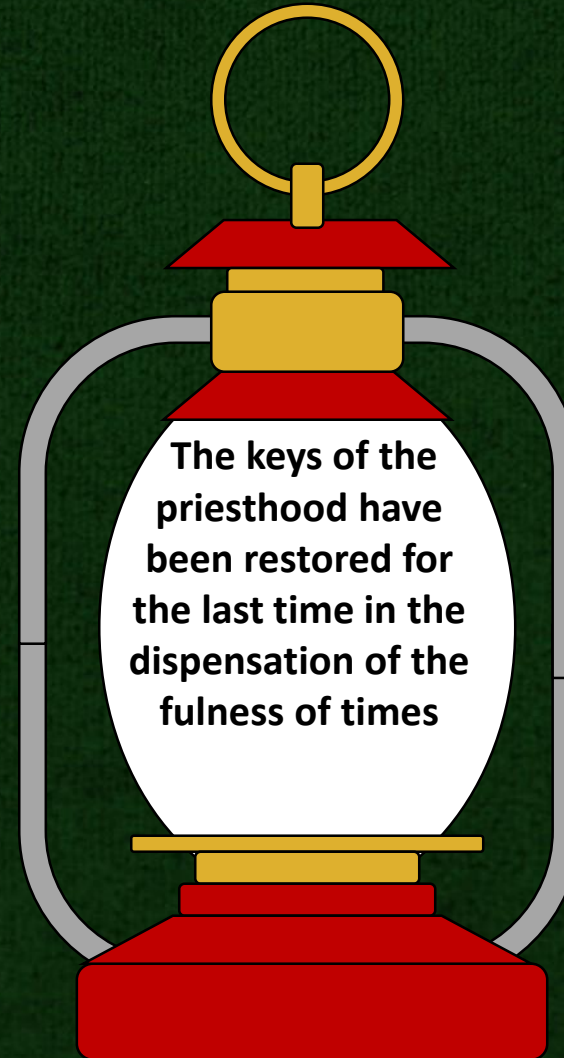
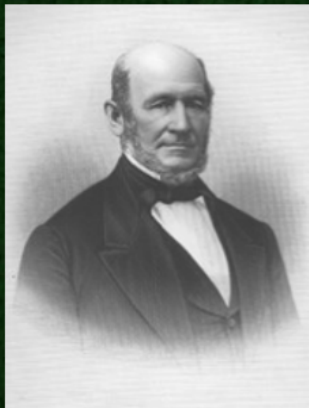


Counselors to the Twelve



Authority of The President

The presiding authority is why Joseph Smith, as President of the Church, had the authority to call two members of the Quorum of the Twelve, Heber C. Kimball and Orson Hyde, on a mission to England even though Thomas B. Marsh, as President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, held the keys to direct the work of the Twelve in proclaiming the gospel.



The Return of Thomas B. Marsh

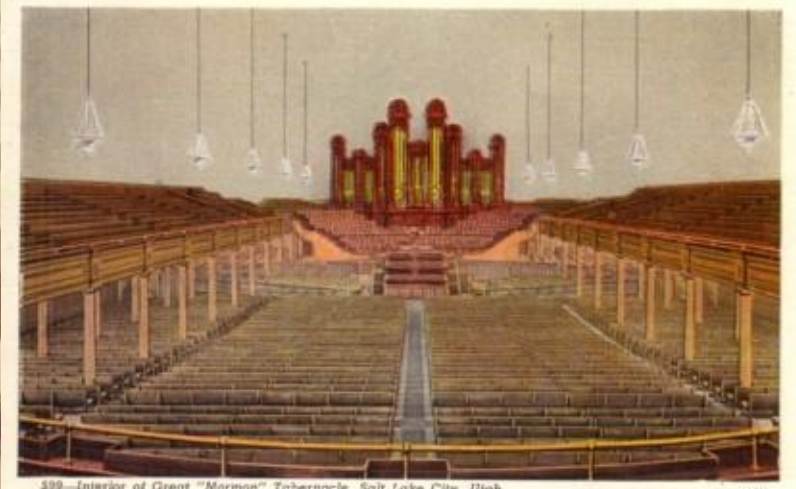
“Brother Thomas B. Marsh, formerly the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, has now come to us, after an absence of nearly nineteen years. He is on the stand today, and wishes to make a few remarks to the congregation.”

...He came into my office and wished to know whether I could be reconciled to him, and whether there could be a reconciliation between himself and the Church of the living God. He reflected for a moment and said, I am reconciled to the Church, but I want to know whether the Church can be reconciled to me.”



He is here, and I want him to say what he may wish to. [Brother Marsh then arose, and the President continued.] Brethren and sisters, I now introduce to you brother Thomas B. Marsh. When the Quorum of the Twelve was first organized, he was appointed to be their President.”

President Brigham Young



399—Interior of Great "Mormon" Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah

Sources:

Video: "If They Harden Not Their Hearts" (11:21)



Time line: *Doctrine and Covenants Student Manual Religion 324-325 Section 112*

Hyrum M. Smith and Janne M. Sjodahl *Doctrine and Covenants Commentary* pg. 732-35

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf ("Pride and the Priesthood," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 58).

President Brigham Young (*Discourses of Brigham Young*, p. 138, 206).

President Joseph Fielding Smith (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 2:73.)

Photo of Tabernacle...Where the Prophet Brigham Young Spoke

Be Thou Humble:

Elder Harold B. Lee related: "I remember at a stake conference some years ago a young man was called to a high position. When we had asked him to express himself, expecting a humble testimony in his acceptance, he stood up and in a rather flamboyant, boastful way gave a dramatic performance. At the close of the service as we walked home, one of the high council whispered to me and said, calling him by name: 'When he stood up there in the pulpit this morning, he was all alone.'" (In Conference Report, Oct. 1960, p. 17.)

Open rebellion:

President Joseph Fielding Smith explained: "At the time this revelation was given some of the members of the council of the apostles were in open rebellion and had displayed a very bitter spirit towards the Prophet. The Lord endeavored to impress upon them the fact that the Prophet was the one who held the keys of this dispensation and that he would hold them constantly until the Lord should come. In a former revelation (Sec. 43:4–7.) the Lord had said that the keys were in the hands of Joseph Smith and that if he should transgress and lose them they would be given to another. At that day the Prophet had not been tested and proved by tribulation and suffering, but now in July 1837, the Prophet having shown his integrity in all kinds of difficulties and tribulation the Lord declared that the keys shall never be taken from him. The Lord wished to impress upon the apostles and others in the councils of the Church that he had not forsaken his prophet and would be with him to the end." (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 2:72–73.)

David Rice Atchison (General)

Atchison was born to William Atchison in Frogtown (later Kirklevington), which is now part of Lexington, Kentucky. He was educated at Transylvania University in Lexington, where his classmates included five future Democratic senators (Solomon Downs of Louisiana, Jesse Bright of Indiana, George W. Jones of Iowa, Edward Hannegan of Indiana, and Jefferson Davis of Mississippi). Atchison was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1829.

Missouri lawyer and politician

In 1830 he moved to Liberty in Clay County in western Missouri, and set up practice there, where he also farmed. Atchison's law practice flourished, and his best-known client was Latter Day Saint Movement founder Joseph Smith.

Atchison represented Smith in land disputes with non-Mormon settlers in Caldwell County and Daviess County

Alexander William Doniphan joined Atchison's law practice in Liberty in May, 1833.

The two became fast friends and spent many leisure time hours playing cards, going the horse races, hunting, fishing, attending social functions and political events. Atchison, already a member of the Liberty Blues, a volunteer militia in Missouri, got Doniphan to join.

Atchison was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1834.

He worked hard for the Platte Purchase, which extended the northwestern boundary of Missouri to the Missouri River in 1837.

When the earlier disputes broke out into the so-called Mormon War of 1838, Atchison was appointed a major general in the state militia and took part in suppression of the violence by both sides.

In 1838 he was re-elected to the Missouri State House of Representatives. Three years later, he appointed a circuit court judge for the six-county area of the Platte Purchase. In 1843 he was named a county commissioner in Platte County, where he then lived.

Atchison himself never claimed that he was technically **President of the United States for one day** — Sunday, March 4, 1849. Outgoing President James Polk's term ended at noon on March 4, which was a Sunday. His successor, Zachary Taylor, refused to be sworn into office on Sunday. As President *pro tempore*, and therefore Acting Vice President, under the presidential succession law in place at the time, Atchison was believed by some to be Acting President.

Wikipedia

REMARKS BY THOMAS B. MARSH. I do not know that I can make all this vast congregation hear and understand me. My voice never was very strong, but it has been very much weakened of late years by the afflicting rod of Jehovah. He loved me too much to let me go without whipping. I have seen the hand of the Lord in the chastisement which I have received. I have seen and known that it has proved he loved me; for if he had not cared anything about me, he would not have taken me by the arm and given me such a shaking.

If there are any among this people who should ever apostatize and do as I have done, prepare your backs for a good whipping, if you are such as the Lord loves. But if you will take my advice, you will stand by the authorities; but if you go away and the Lord loves you as much as he did me, he will whip you back again.

Many have said to me, "How is it that a man like you, who understood so much of the revelations of God as recorded in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, should fall away?" I told them not to feel too secure, but to take heed lest they also should fall; for I had no scruples in my mind as to the possibility of men falling away.

I can say, in reference to the Quorum of the Twelve, to which I belonged, that I did not consider myself a whit behind any of them, and I suppose that others had the same opinion; but, let no one feel too secure: for, before you think of it, your steps will slide. You will not then think nor feel for a moment as you did before you lost the Spirit of Christ; for when men apostatize, they are left to grovel in the dark.

I have sought diligently to know the Spirit of Christ since I turned my face Zion ward, and I believe I have obtained it. I have frequently wanted to know how my apostasy began, and I have come to the conclusion that I must have lost the Spirit of the Lord out of my heart....

I derive strength from a superior source. I have been drinking from that source for many years; and, as I told you last Sabbath, I have been trying to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. And, if we are faithful, we will all be counted worthy to be his disciples. God bless you! Amen.

Thomas B. Marsh...Brigham Young Journal of Discourse 206-207



Salt Lake City Tabernacle