Hebrews 1-6



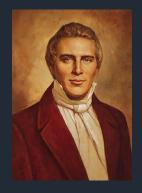


Hebrews

Most Latter-day Saints accept Paul as the author of Hebrews.

However, there are some who question whether Paul wrote this epistle because its style and language are different from Paul's other letters. It is generally agreed that even if the pen was not Paul's, the ideas were because the doctrines in Hebrews agree with those found in Paul's other letters. (2)





The Prophet Joseph Smith attributed statements from Hebrews to the Apostle Paul

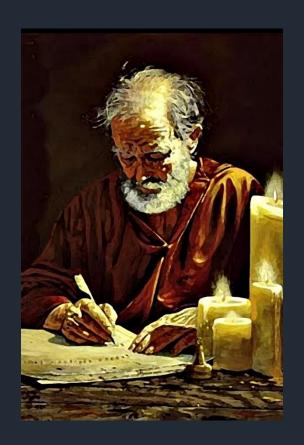


Just a thought:

Because Paul spoke a number of languages, and because his audience was Jewish and not Greek, his letters could be different in structure.

Jewish Christians

Paul wrote the Epistle to the Hebrews to encourage Jewish members of the Church to maintain their faith in Jesus Christ and not to return to their former ways



Under the pressure of various afflictions, many of these Jewish Christians were apparently withdrawing from the Church and returning to the relative safety of Jewish worship at the synagogue.

Paul desired to show these Jewish Christians that the law of Moses itself pointed to Jesus Christ and His Atonement as the true source of salvation.

"Hebrew...is to the New Testament what Leviticus is to the Old:"

Levitical Order

Leviticus announces the Mosaic system

Paul shows
how the
gospel grew
out of the soil
of the
Levitical order

Intended to bridge those in the wilderness of carnality

The New Testament was in the process of preparation and nearly 3 centuries passed before it was accepted as standard, so the Old Testament was the only scripture available to the Christians.

"Hebrews is More Christ Centered"

Mosaic law no longer needed

Christ fulfills all requirements

Christ atones for all mankind

Crossing over into the "rest" of the Lord

Jesus is authorized to fulfill the old covenant of the law and administer the new covenant of the gospel

Hebrews shows how Christ is the fulfillment of the Mosaic system and the reality in Jesus of Nazareth and his atoning sacrifice



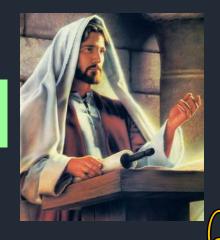
Reigns at the right hand of the Father

Created the heavens and the earth



Jesus Christ:

Speaks for the Father



Is in the express

image of the Father

Purges our sins



Upholds all things by the word of His power



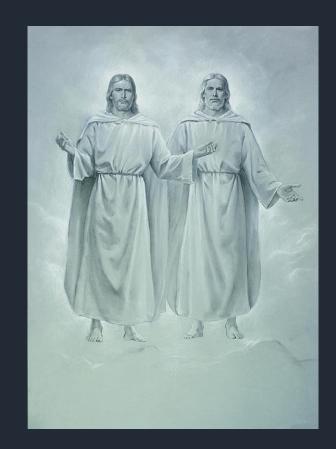
Is the heir of the Father



Hebrews 1:2-3

Physical Characters of Jesus Christ

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person..."



"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye known him, and have seen him."

—John 14:7

Titles and Roles of the Savior

Hebrews 1:1-3,10

Hebrews 2:9-10, 17

Hebrews 3:1







Joseph Brickey

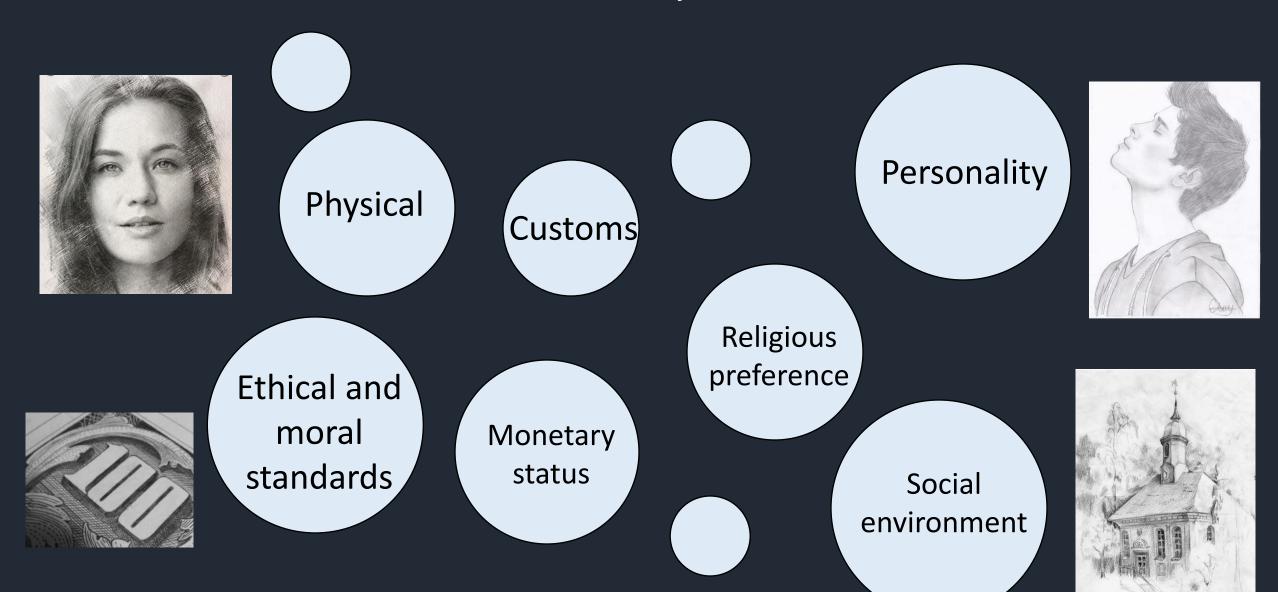
Hebrews 5:8-10



Hebrews 9:11-16



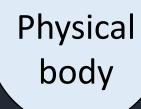
What do we receive from our parents when we are born?



Hebrews 1:3

What have we inherited from Heavenly Father?





Choices



Personality





A sense of right and wrong

Knowledge through scriptures

Free agency





Attributes and Characteristics of Christ



Angels worship Him

He laid the

foundation

of the earth

He hates iniquity

Crowned him with glory and honor

He will have a scepter of righteousness



He made Him lower than angels

Taste death for every man



"Condescension of God"

Read 1 Nephi 11:26-33





The Savior's willingness to leave His throne on high, become mortal, suffer death on the cross, and pay for the sins of mankind

Learn About Jesus

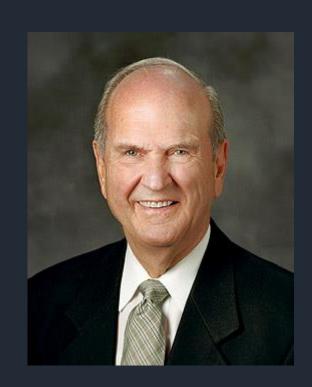
If you proceed to learn all you can about Jesus Christ, I promise you that your love for Him, and for God's laws, will grow beyond what you currently imagine.

I promise you also that your ability to turn away from sin will increase.

Your desire to keep the commandments will soar.

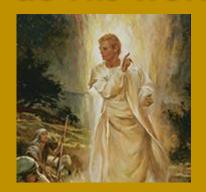
You will find yourself better able to walk away from the entertainment and entanglements of those who mock the followers of Jesus Christ. ...

Study everything Jesus Christ *is* by prayerfully and vigorously seeking to understand what each of His various titles and names means *personally* for you.



Angel = "Messenger"

Sent by God to do His work

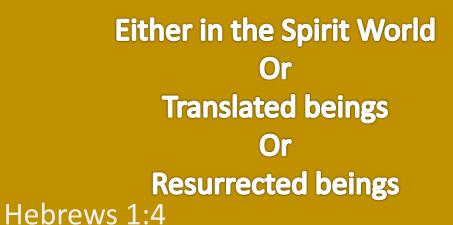


With special callings to serve

Some may not have come to earth yet

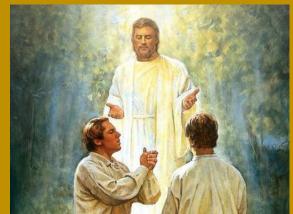


Some are people who lived on earth:

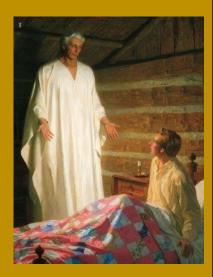




Like John the Beloved



Like Moroni, or John the Baptist when they visited Joseph Smith



Angels without Physical Bodies

Living in the premortal world, waiting to be born

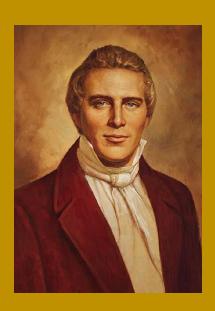
Finished with mortality, living in the spirit world



Angels with Physical Bodies

A perfected resurrected being who has finished mortality

A translated being, like John the Revelator



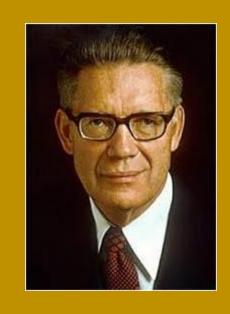
"These angels are under the direction of Michael or Adam, who acts under the direction of the Lord.

From Hebrew 1:4 we learn that Paul perfectly understood the purposes of God in relation to His connection with man, and that glorious and perfect order which He established in Himself, whereby he sent forth power, revelations, and glory."

Is the Savior Really Lower Than the Angels?

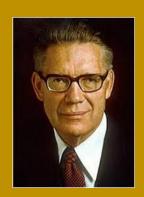
"The marginal reading of this quotation from Psalm 8:4-6 recites that man is made, not a little lower than the angels, but a little lower than Elohim, which means that all God's offspring, Jesus included, as children in his family, are created subject to him, with the power to advance until all things are 'in subjection' to them.

Of those who gain eternal life, it is written: 'Then shall they be above all, because all things are subject unto them, Then shall they be gods, because they have all power, and the angels are subject unto them."



READ D&C 132:20

Hebrews 1:4 (5)



Angelic Status

"The only sense in which either men or Jesus are lower than the angels is in that mortal restrictions limit them for the moment; and for the that matter, angels themselves become mortals and then in the resurrection attain again their angelic status."



Hebrews 1:4 (5)

Captain of Salvation

What qualifications do you look for when selecting a captain or leader?



Richard Lyon (July 14, 1923 – February 3, 2017)



Vigdís Finnbogadóttir (First Iceland President)

The first step in the process of becoming a Christlike leader is to accept Christ as the ideal—the one perfect being who ever walked the earth.

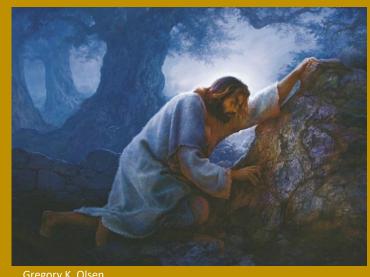
The prophets of this dispensation have taught and modeled the leadership of Jesus Christ.



Captain Bernard Warner (Queen Mary 2)

Reconciliation

Christ atoned for our sins, allowing us to be reconciled, or brought into a harmonious relationship, with Heavenly Father



Gregory K. Olsen

Paul not only referred to the Savior as the Captain of our salvation, but he also called Him "a merciful and faithful high priest."

Paul likened Jesus Christ to a Jewish high priest because the high priest was viewed as a mediator between the people and God.

READ Alma 7:11-13

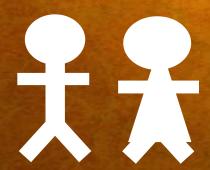
Goals

What goal would you like to accomplish?



What steps do you need to take to reach that goal?

"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end;"



Whose responsibility is it to obtain that goal?

If you do not meet the requirements for that goal, do you think you should be given the reward anyway?

Enter into the Rest of the Lord

"So I sware in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest."

Rest
Presence of God
A privilege of seeing God
Manifestations of God





"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. ...



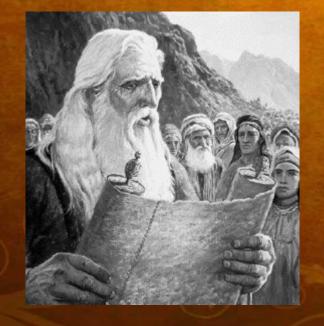
The rest of the Lord, where mortals are concerned, is to gain a perfect knowledge of the divinity of the great latter-day work. ...

The rest of the Lord, in eternity, is to inherit eternal life, to gain the fulness of the Lord's glory."

Forfeiting God's Glory-Israelites

"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."
--D&C 84:24

Paul Warns the Hebrews

"Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God."

"But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."



Paul Warns Us Today

"While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."

The righteous enter into a state of rest called paradise when they die...



...but we can also receive the Lord's rest in this life.

The Meaning of Entering Into God's Rest

"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,

we are not disturbed by every wind of doctrine,

or by the cunning and craftiness of men who lie in wait to deceive.



Degree of Faith

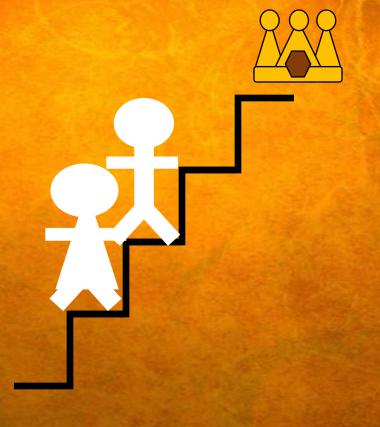
"The man/woman who has reached that degree of faith in God that all doubt and fear have been cast from him, he has entered into 'God's rest'
Rest from doubt,
from fear,

from apprehension of danger, from the religious turmoil of the world.



Falling Short of Your Goal

"For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said,...if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world."



"For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day."

Jesus Has The Power

Jesus Christ has the power to help each of us obtain His rest

Jesus doesn't take away the burdens we have but strengthens us to carry them and promises it will be for our good.

(7)



"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28



Obtaining Our Goal

Come unto **Christ** Seek the rest Seek the joy Seek the peace

If we remain faithful to the Savior and harden not our hearts, we will enter into the rest of the Lord



Condescension of Jesus Christ

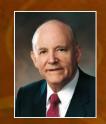
The Savior's example of humility and sacrifice for all mankind is the most profound event in history.

The Savior, even as a member of the Godhead, was willing to come to earth as a lowly infant and begin an existence that included teaching and healing His brothers and sisters and ultimately suffering indescribable pain in Gethsemane and on the cross in order to perfect His Atonement.

This act of love and humility on the part of Christ is known as His condescension.

He did this for every man and woman God has created or will create. (9)





Tempted As Like We Are

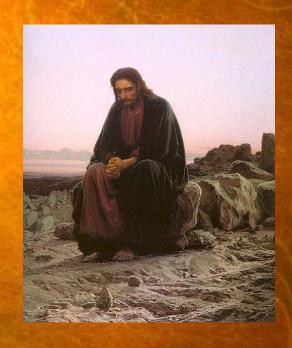
It is important to remember that Jesus was capable of sinning, that he could have succumbed, that the plan of life and salvation could have been foiled, but that he remained true.

Had there been no possibility of his yielding to the enticement of Satan, there would have been no real test, no genuine victory in the result.

If he had been stripped of the faculty to sin, he would have been stripped of his very agency.

It was he who had come to safeguard and ensure the agency of man.

He had to retain the capacity and ability to sin had he willed so to do. (10)



As Paul wrote, "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8); and he "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15). He was perfect and sinless, not because he had to be, but rather because he clearly and determinedly wanted to be.

The Thron of Grace

When we come before God, it should be done in humble reverence, worshipful adoration, and penitent pleading. We can have confidence not because of our own goodness or abilities but because of the merits of Jesus Christ, which make it possible for us to come before God.

Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, that they may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the Holy Messiah, who layeth down his life according to the flesh, and taketh it again by the power of the Spirit, that he may bring to pass the resurrection of the dead, being the first that should rise.

Sources:

- 1. New Testament Institute Student Manual Chapter 47
- 2. Bible Dictionary
- 3. Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 105).
- 4. Joseph Smith Teaching pg. 191
- 5. Elder Bruce R. McConkie DNTC 3:143; Elder Bruce R. McConkie (Mormon Doctrine, 2nd ed. [1966], 633).
- 6. Joseph F. Smith Gospel Doctrine pg 58
- 7. Brad Wilcox "Continuous Atonement"
- 8. Russell M. Nelson, "Prophets, Leadership, and Divine Law" [worldwide devotional for young adults, Jan. 8, 2017], ChurchofJesusChrist.org; emphasis added.
- 9. Quentin L. Cook, "The Eternal Everyday," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2017, 52.
- 10. Howard W. Hunter, "The Temptations of Christ," Ensign, Nov. 1976, 19

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LETTER TO THE HEBREWS—BELIEVED WRITTEN BY PAUL, ABOUT A.D. 60-

Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles Chapter 46

The Sure Testimony of the Still, Small Voice

How to Enter into the Rest of the Lord

Christ, the Compassionate High Priest

Background for Hebrews:

Tension was often sharp between gentile and Jewish Christians, the former insisting that Mosaic ritual was done away in Christ's atoning sacrifice and the latter often *insisting* that it was not. As the former point of view began to prevail, an interesting question arose: If we accept the truth that the law of Moses is no longer binding on Christians, what is the true value of the Old Testament and how should it be interpreted? The question was particularly pressing for Jewish Christians, since their personal upbringing included a reverent study of the ancient scriptures. (The only scriptures available to the Christians at this early date, whether Jew or gentile, were those known to us as the Old Testament. The New Testament was in the process of preparation, and nearly three centuries passed before it was accepted as a standard or rule of faith.) Paul's letter to the Hebrews appears to have been written, at least in part, to answer this question.

The Difference Between an Angel and a Ministering Spirit Hebrews 1:4: "He [Paul] explained the difference between an angel and a ministering spirit; the one a resurrected

whereby he sent forth power, revelations, and glory." (Smith, Teachings, p. 168.)

or translated body, with its spirit ministering to embodied spirits—the other a disembodied spirit, visiting and ministering to disembodied spirits. Jesus Christ became a ministering spirit (while His body was lying in the sepulchre) to the spirits in prison, to fulfill an important part of His mission, without which He could not have perfected His work, or entered into His rest. After His resurrection He appeared as an angel to His disciples." (Smith, *Teachings*, p. 191.)
"These angels are under the direction of Michael or Adam, who acts under the direction of the Lord. From [Hebrews 1:4] we learn that Paul perfectly understood the purposes of God in relation to His connection with man, and that glorious and perfect order which He established in Himself,

Angels Hebrews 1:6, 14:

"I believe we need to speak of and believe in and bear testimony to the ministry of angels more than we sometimes do. They constitute one of God's great methods of witnessing through the veil" Elder Jeffrey R. Holland ("A Standard unto My People" [address delivered at the Church Educational System Symposium on the Book of Mormon, Aug. 9, 1994], 11; si.lds.org).

Angels Hebrews 1:6, 14:

"Some of these personal visits were dramatic and powerful. Think of the angels who ministered to the Nephite children in the account of 3 Nephi 17, or the angel who chastised Alma and Mosiah's sons in answer to a father's prayer. (See Mosiah 27.)

"Other personal manifestations have been so quiet that those who received them were unaware of the angelic presence. The ministry of these *unseen* angels is among the most sublime forms of interaction between heaven and earth, powerfully expressing God's concern for us and bestowing tangible assurance and spiritual sustenance upon those in great need" Elder Bruce C. Hafen ("When Do the Angels Come?" *Ensign*, Apr. 1992, 12).

Symbol of the Rest of the Lord Hebrews 4:4,10:

"The Sabbath Day is the sign and symbol of the rest of the Lord. Those who have entered into gospel rest keep the Sabbath Day holy as part of their righteous conduct and true worship. On that day they rest from their worldly labors, as God did from his creative enterprises, as a sign and testimony that they have entered into the rest of the Lord in this life, have testimonies of the gospel, and look forward to that rest of the Lord 'which rest is the fulness of his glory' hereafter. (D. & C. 84:24.)" Elder Bruce R. McConkie (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1965–73], 3:151).

Richard Lyon, pioneering Navy SEAL who fought in two wars, dies at 93 (Feb. 3, 2017)

Born in the summer of 1923, Dick Lyon was destined to become an extraordinary waterman. Initially, while only a junior in high school, he became the #1 nationally ranked swimmer in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle. In 1940, Dick made the US national Olympic team. (Because of the 1940's boycott he was never able to compete). Mentored by the formidable Yale coach Bob Kiphuth, it's no surprise that Dick entered Yale in the fall of 1941.

He enlisted in the Navy on October 9, 1942 while an engineering major at Yale, and entered the accelerated program, graduating after only two years and nine months. While taking a tough course load, Dick never let up on his training in the pool. The whole time he competed at Yale the swim team never lost a meet. During Dick's junior year he anchored the 400-yard freestyle relay team which set a new world's record, stealing it from the Japanese national team who had held the record previously. Hearing the patriotic crowd roar with excitement at the prospect of Americans beating the Japanese, Dick got his best-ever split on his leg. When he touched the wall, his teammates jumped in with him and yelled, "We got it!" As soon as he could, Dick sent a telegraph to his delighted parents telling them his relay team in essence had "just broken the world's record, ho hum." They weren't fooled for a second by his low key message. They were all over the moon. Finally, he capped off his swimming career by captaining Yale to the NCAA Division 1 National Championship in his senior year.

After graduating with honors in 1944, Dick went on to Columbia Midshipman School in New York City for three months. After the first month he was selected to take command of the entire regiment (2,400 midshipmen). Three weeks before he was to graduate as a 90-day-wonder he saw a notice "Wanted: Volunteers for Special Warfare Unit Involving Demolition of Explosives. Must be Strong Swimmer." The assignment to the Scouts and Raiders (forefathers of today's Navy Seals) was just his calling.

Sent to Ft. Pierce, Florida, Dick went through Class 8 of the Scouts and Raiders along with 56 other tough naval officers. Scouts and Raiders was the Navy's first special warfare unit, developed to conduct reconnaissance on potential invasion beaches. They were soon followed in 1942 by NCDU's (navy combat demolition units), and in 1943 by "frogmen", the Underwater Demolition Teams (UDT's), who were responsible for blowing up natural (reefs) and man-made obstacles on beaches to clear a path for invasion forces.

The Scouts and Raiders were the first to endure such trials as "hell week", a week with almost no sleep or rations, which is today a standard part of training for Navy SEALS that prepares them to find ways to survive on their own behind enemy lines. Three months later, Class 8 were sent to Europe, the China-Burma-India (CBI) theater, and the Pacific. Dick landed on the Pacific side, where he joined the Administrative Command Amphibious Force Pacific Fleet.

Hopping from island to island primarily in the Philippines, Dick got to do his first reconnaissance mission of the war at a beach a little bit outside of Davao, one of the larger cities on Mindanao. Dick found and reported that it was clear of natural and man-made obstacles, a good place for a landing. Exactly five days after he did the recon, the first atomic bomb dropped on Japan.

The Amphibious Force picked up elements of the Army's 33rd Infantry Division, then went on to Japan's Honshu Island. There, inside Sagami Wan, a large curved bay west of Tokyo Bay, near the village of Wakayama, Dick did another recon of a beach. The town looked abandoned, but as Dick looked out of the water towards the small town center he saw three people walking down the main street to the beach. It soon became clear they were waiting to talk to him. So, Dick walked out of the water and up the beach towards the men. The leader of the little group said in clear English, "I want to let you know that I and the people of this city are so glad that this war is over." Somewhat surprised to have met his first Japanese, and one who spoke English so well, Dick said he was glad the war was over too, "And I think you will find the occupation a peaceful one." His new acquaintance replied, "I am sure you will find that the case in Wakayama."

After several minutes, Dick asked how he spoke such good English. The Japanese man said, "I'm a graduate of Harvard."

Not one to let that slip, Dick immediately expressed his regrets, "Well my heart goes out to you, because Yale always beats Harvard at football."

They made an appointment to meet again on the beach in three days, and his now Japanese friend brought Dick to his house as a guest, where they had a delightful evening. Dick's gift of two cartons of Lucky Strikes could not have been more enthusiastically received, and as he left he was presented with a portfolio of 23 antique prints with detailed hand appliqués of Samurai warriors...priceless!

Still not able to return home because he had so few points, Dick was somewhat at loose ends. Then he heard through the grapevine that the Commander of the 7th fleet based in Shanghai wanted a Scout intelligence officer on his staff. He spent the next year in northern China reporting on the activities of Mao Tse Tung's armies on the Shantung Peninsula in an effort to hold off a Chinese civil war, an incredible experience for a very junior officer.

Leaving active duty after that assignment, Dick joined the Naval Reserves and had completed his first year of a Stanford MBA when he was recalled for Korea. Reporting in 1951 to Beach Jumper Unit 1, he again volunteered for NavSpecWar, UDTRA Class 2, and as a Navy Lieutenant became a Plank Owner (original commissioning member) of Underwater Demolition Team 5. That grueling training that UDT5 experienced was the beginning of what is now the 55-week SEAL training. Since then 281 additional classes have endured the training, and in early 2012 Class 287 will graduate.

After just a three-month training, UDT5 was sent immediately to Korea. For the first time they took mission responsibility beyond the mean high-water mark. In fact, UDT5 went in and blew up rail lines and tunnels. Dick worked in North Korea, above the 38th parallel, inside Won San harbor, recovering a new type of anti-amphibious assault mine. His job was to dive in 36-degree water in a dry suit (before SCUBA and wetsuits existed), under fire, swim under the mine, and cut its mooring line with a pair of 24" bolt cutters. After 20 minutes he had to be pulled out due to the cold. Working out of a little yellow raft with the explosive ordinance disposal expert, they would tow each mine to an island within the harbor and "render it safe" (defuse it). The mines were then sent back to Indian Head, Maryland, Navy Mine Warfare Headquarters, where all were determined to be Russian-made!

Dick eventually attained the rank of two-star Admiral in 1974, the first special warfare (SEAL) officer to do so. In this rank he was recalled for three more years of active duty as Deputy Chief of Naval Reserve, the senior reserve officer in the Navy. He has the distinction of holding the title "BullFrog 1". "BullFrog" is that active-duty SEAL with the longest tenure in special warfare. When Admiral Eric Olson (BullFrog 14) retired, Admiral William H. McRaven, and Commander Brian Sebenaler (a Mustang) jointly inherited the title of BullFrog 15. Both graduated from BUD/S Class 87.

Retiring from the Navy after nearly 41 years of service, Dick became actively involved in community affairs. He was a founder and trustee president of Children's Hospital, Orange County (CHOC). He also became mayor of Oceanside, California for eight years. and served as president of the city's unified school district.

An avid outdoorsman, Lyon was a pilot, a skier and a yachtsman. He won body surfing contests well into his late 70s. He was a proud representative of the Scouts and Raiders. http://www.ww2historyproject.org/veterans/admiral-richard-lyon/

Captain Bernard Warner has been at sea for forty years and in command for the past twelve years. He was born near Leeds and grew up in the North Yorkshire town of Wetherby. A lifetime friendship with the sea was cultivated at Sandsend near Whitby on the north east coast of England, where he spent the summer holidays sailing and fishing with his father. When just eight years old he went away to boarding school and was educated initially at Terrington Hall near York (1956 - 1961) and then at Denstone College in Staffordshire (1961 - 1964).

At sixteen he entered the Warsash School of Navigation at the University of Southampton. Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth would frequently sail past the college as they made their way up Southampton Water into the port and it was these ships which gave him the inspiration to one day command a Cunard Trans Atlantic liner.

In 1965 Cunard Line would only consider employing navigating officers who had attained a Masters Certificate. Captain Warner would be twenty five years old by the time this had been achieved. The alternative was to join P&O, which was the other great passenger shipping company of the day. He signed indentures and commenced a four year cadetship with them on 1st January 1966. P&O had a large passenger fleet but an even larger fleet of cargo ships. His first voyage was from King George V dock in London to the Far East aboard Somali, a 7000 gross ton freighter.

Nearing the end of his cadetship in 1969, he joined his first passenger ship Oriana, and by the early seventies he was sailing as a Junior Deck Officer aboard the P&O ship Iberia. He was later to be appointed to the legendary P&O liner Canberra, where he also sailed as Deputy Captain in 1988.

Captain Warner met his wife, Tina, on board Royal Princess. They were married in 1988 and now live in Leek Wootton (about one mile from Warwick Castle). Their two sons, Tom (aged 16) and Charles (aged 11), enjoy sailing aboard with them during school holidays.

In 1994, he was appointed to his first command - the 20000 gross ton ship Island Princess - and since that time has commanded seven other passenger ships. He oversaw the building of Dawn Princess, Golden Princess and Diamond Princess and was designated the first Master of both Golden Princess and Diamond Princess, which at 116 000 gross tons, are slightly smaller than Queen Mary 2 (151,400 gross tons) On November 11th 1996 he was invited by the British & Commonwealth Office to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph on behalf of the British Merchant Navy. This is an annual event to honor all those who have given their lives in both World Wars.

In 1998 he was elected a Younger Brother of Trinity House whose Master is the Duke of Edinburgh, and who have recently asked Princess Anne to be its first female member. Bernard Warner is a descendant of Sir Thomas Warner who, in the 17th Century, was Captain of the schooner Marmaduke. Sir Thomas crossed the Atlantic in 1623, and founded the first English settlement in the West Indies at the island of St Christopher (now known as St Kitts). He claimed it on behalf of King James 1st of England and in 1625 became the islands first Governor General. His tomb is at St. Thomas church in Middle Island village on St Kitts.

Captain Warner has recently realized one of his career ambitions after being appointed to command the majestic Queen Mary 2. http://www.qm2.org.uk/captain_bw.html **Vigdís Finnbogadóttir** (born 15 April 1930) served as the fourth President of Iceland from 1 August 1980 to 1996. She was both Iceland's and Europe's first female president, and the world's first democratically directly elected female president. With a presidency of exactly sixteen years, she also remains the longest-serving elected female head of state of any country to date. Currently, she is a UNESCO Goodwil Ambassador, and a Member of the Club of Madrid. She is also to date Iceland's only female president.

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was born in Reykjavík on 15 April 1930. Her father, Finnbogi Rútur Þorvaldsson, was a civil engineer, as well as a professor at the University of Iceland. Her mother, Sigríður Eiríksdóttir, was a nurse and the chairperson of the Icelandic Nurses Association. They had two children: Vigdís and then a son a year later. After passing her matriculation exam in 1949, Vigdís studied French and French literature at the University of Grenoble and the Sorbonne in Paris from 1949 to 1953, then studied the history of theater at the University of Copenhagen. She then acquired a BA in French and English, as well as PGCE, at the University of Iceland. She married a physician in 1954, but divorced in 1963, and at the age of 41 she adopted a daughter, being the first single woman who was allowed to adopt a child.

After graduation Vigdís taught French and French drama at the University and worked with experimental theatre. She worked with the Reykjavík Theatre Company from 1954 to 1957 and again from 1961 to 1964. During the summers, she also worked as a tour guide. Vigdís taught French at Menntaskólinn í Reykjavík 1962–67 and at Menntaskólinn við Hamrahlíð from 1967 to 1972. She also taught for a while at University of Iceland, as well as holding French courses on RÚV, the Icelandic state television.

She was the Artistic Director of the Reykjavík Theatre Company (Leikfélag Reykjavíkur), later the City Theatre from 1972 to 1980. From 1976 to 1980, she was a member of the Advisory Committee on Cultural Affairs in the Nordic countries.

In 1996 she became founding chair of the Council of Women World Leaders at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Two years later she was appointed president of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology.

The Icelandic women's movement has a long history. During the International Women's Year in 1975 Icelandic women attracted great attention when they organized a general strike to show how important women's undervalued work was. 90 per cent of the Icelandic women went on strike. And at the presidential election in 1980 the women's movement focused on electing a woman. After much persuasion Vigdís accepted to run against three male candidates. She was the first woman in the world to be elected as head of state in a democratic election, despite being a divorced single mother. She was narrowly elected, with 33.6 percent of the national vote, while her nearest rival got 32.1 percent. She became very popular and was subsequently reelected three times, unopposed in 1984, with 94.6 percent of the votes against another woman in 1988 and unopposed in 1992. In 1996 she decided not to run for reelection.

Although the Icelandic presidency is largely a ceremonial position, Vigdís took an active role as environmental activist and fought for Icelandic language and culture, acting as a cultural ambassador in promoting the country. She emphasized the role of small nations and hosted a crucial summit between US President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986. She had as her motto: 'Never let the women down' and worked specifically to promote girls' education. She was also aware of her role as a model for young women. In 1993 the work *Mitt Folk*, commissioned by the British government, by the composer Oliver Kentish was dedicated to her as a gift from Britain to Iceland celebrating the 50th anniversary of the republic

Since 1998, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir has been UNESCO's Goodwill Ambassador for languages.

She is also a member of the Fondation Chiracshonour committee, ever since the foundation was launched in 2008 by former French president Jacques Chirac in order to promote world peace.

She has received 16 honorary degrees in various countries and a member of the Club of Madrid, an independent non-profit organization composed of 81 democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers from 57 different countries.

Wikipedia

President Kimball pointed out a few leadership attributes and skills the Savior demonstrated perfectly (see <u>"Jesus: The Perfect Leader"</u>):

- •"Jesus operated from a base of fixed principles or truths rather than making up the rules as he went along" (p. 5; see <u>John 5:19</u>; <u>8:28</u>; <u>12:49</u>).
- •"He walked and worked with those he was to serve" (p. 5; see 1 Nephi 11:31; Matthew 9:11-13; Mark 10:13-16).
- •"Jesus was a listening leader" (p. 5; see D&C 67:1; Mark 5:35-36).
- •"Jesus was a patient, pleading, loving leader" (p. 5; see <u>John 21:15-17</u>; <u>Jacob 5:46-47</u>; <u>3 Nephi 10:3-6</u>).
- •"Jesus loved his followers, he was able to level with them, to be candid and forthright with them" (p. 5; see <u>D&C 3:1–10</u>; <u>95:1</u>; <u>Luke 22:31–32</u>).
- •"Jesus' leadership emphasized the importance of being discerning with regard to others, without seeking to control them" (p. 6; see <u>D&C 121:37, 39</u>; <u>Moses 3:16–17</u>; <u>John 8:1–9</u>).
- •"He gave [his disciples] important and specific things to do for their development" (p. 6; see Matthew 26:17–19; John 21:4–6; D&C 95:13–17).
- •"Jesus was not afraid to make demands of those he led" (p. 6; see Matthew 5:48; 19:16-21; 1 Nephi 17:8).
- •"Jesus believed in his followers, not alone for what they were, but for what they had the possibilities to become" (p. 6; see <u>John 1:35–42</u>; <u>D&C 78:17–18</u>; <u>Moses 6:31–32</u>).
- •"Jesus gave people truths and tasks that were matched to their capacity" (p. 6; see <u>D&C 1:24</u>; <u>19:21–22</u>; <u>110:11–</u> <u>16</u>; <u>Joshua 5:12</u>).
- •"Jesus taught us that we are accountable. ... A good leader will remember he is accountable to God as well as to those he leads" (p. 6; see <u>John 17:12</u>; <u>Jacob 1:19</u>; <u>Ezekiel 33:2–6</u>; <u>34:2–6</u>).
- •"Jesus also taught us how important it is to use our time wisely" (p. 6; see Mark 1:35; Luke 10:38–42; Ecclesiastes 3:1–8; D&C 60:13).

Become a Christlike Leader

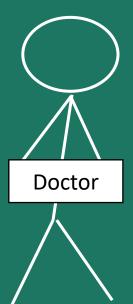
Called of God Hebrews 5-6



For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

Hebrews 5:1

How Do You Know?



Do these students lack the authority and ability to perform either to operate on you or give you a ticket?



What must they have?

Qualifications, Degrees,
Training, Authority to perform
their duties





Just as society has established necessary qualifications and ways to obtain authority to carry out certain responsibilities, God has established necessary qualifications (such as faithfulness and worthiness) and ways to obtain authority to carry out certain responsibilities in His Church.

The Pattern

God the Father

The Savior is the High Priest
Jesus received His authority from
God the Father
Hebrews 4:14-16



Aaron was called of God by revelation to serve as the high priest, who represented the people before God in sacred matters and presided over other priesthood holders (the Levites). His calling came from God through a revelation to Moses:

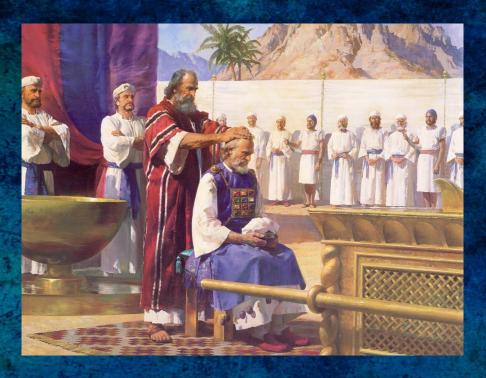
Exodus 28:1

"We believe that a man must be called of God, by prophecy, and by the laying on of hands by those who are in authority, to preach the Gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof."

The Office of High Priest



The office of high priest referred to in these verses was, under the law of Moses, the presiding office in the Aaronic Priesthood. Aaron, Moses's brother, was "the first high priest of the Aaronic order."



The office was hereditary; after the time of Aaron, the high priest was selected from among the firstborn descendants of Aaron and his sons.

The high priest usually served for the remainder of his life, but this office was eventually seized by wicked men.

"High priests were inappropriately appointed and deposed at pleasure by Herod and the Romans alike.

The office was filled by 28 different men between 37 B.C. and A.D. 68"

Hebrews 5: 1-5; Article of Faith 1:5

"The priesthood cannot be conferred like a diploma.





It cannot be handed to you as a certificate.

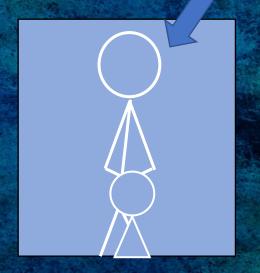
It cannot be delivered to you as a message or sent to you in a letter.

It comes only by proper ordination.

An authorized holder of the priesthood has to be there.

He must place his hands upon your head and ordain you." (2)

Priesthood holder



Hebrews 5:4 (2)

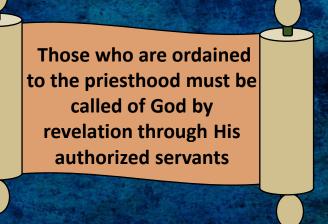
To Be Chosen

Those who are ordained to the priesthood must be called of God by revelation **through** His authorized servants



In the Church today, authorized priesthood leaders are to interview each candidate for ordination and seek the guidance of the Holy Ghost to determine a candidate's readiness and worthiness to be ordained to the priesthood.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. John 15:16



Authority

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Psalm 2:7



The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent,
Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.
Psalm 110:4

Who gave the Savior His authority?

What priesthood does Jesus Christ hold?



Symbols of Melchizedek Priesthood on San Diego Temple Windows

The Pattern--Obedience

Melchizedek was a prototype of Christ and that prophet's ministry typified and foreshadowed that of our Lord in the same sense that the ministry of Moses did.





"The reference to Melchizedek was undoubtedly inserted because Melchizedek was a type or a foreshadowing of Christ...Hence, Hebrews 5:7-8, while referring specifically to Melchizedek, has equal, though indirect, application to Jesus Christ because Melchizedek typifies Christ." (4)



"As in all things, the Savior is our pattern. The Apostle Paul wrote, 'Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience' In our own finite way, we too can learn obedience even as Christ did. ... When obedience becomes our goal, it is no longer an irritation; instead of a stumbling block, it becomes a building block." (5)



Mortal Perfection

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48

In this life, certain actions can be perfected.

A baseball pitcher can throw a no-hit, no-run ball game.

A surgeon can perform an operation without an error.

A musician can render a selection without a mistake.

One can likewise achieve perfection in being punctual, paying tithing, keeping the Word of Wisdom, and so on.

The enormous effort required to attain such self-mastery is rewarded with a deep sense of satisfaction. More importantly, spiritual attainments in mortality accompany us into eternity.





Mortal perfection can be achieved as we try to perform every duty, keep every law, and strive to be as perfect in our sphere as our Heavenly Father is in his. If we do the best we can, the Lord will bless us according to our deeds and the desires of our hearts.

The process of perfection includes challenges to overcome and steps to repentance that may be very painful.

Hebrews 5:9 (6)



Eternal Perfection

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48

perfect = Greek teleios, which means "complete."

Teleios is an adjective derived from the noun telos, which means "end."

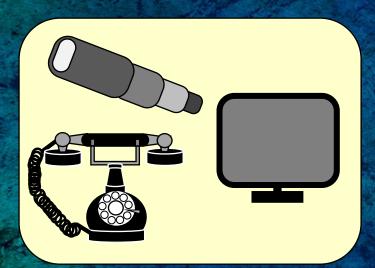
The infinitive form of the verb is *teleiono*, which means "to reach a distant end, to be fully developed, to consummate, or to finish



between circle and line

"The word does not imply "freedom from error"; it implies "achieving a distant objective."





Teleios is not a total stranger to us. From it comes the prefix tele- that we use every day.

Telephone literally means "distant talk."

Television means "to see distantly."

Telephoto means "distant light," and so on.

The perfection that the Savior envisions for us is much more than errorless performance. It is the eternal expectation as expressed by the Lord in his great intercessory prayer to his Father—that we might be made perfect and be able to dwell with them in the eternities ahead.

Hebrews 5:9 (6)

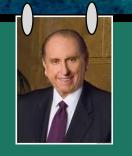
Blessings Are Conditional...







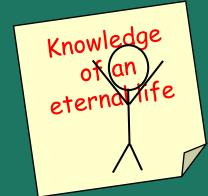




Blessing included in patriarchal blessings



Knowledge of resurrection



...upon our choices

"All of our choices have consequences, some of which have little or nothing to do with our eternal salvation and others of which have *everything* to do with it."

Hebrews 6 (7)

"Leaving the Principles of the Doctrine of Christ"

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

JST: Not leaving

And this will we do, if God permit.

JST: And we will go on unto perfection if God permit.

The Saints addressed in Hebrews had already received the first principles, ordinances, and doctrines of the gospel (including faith, repentance, baptism, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

They were not to abandon those principles but were to continue growing toward spiritual maturity from that beginning point.



Who Are the Sons of Perdition?

Those who have a perfect knowledge of God and then turn away from this truth, rebel against the Savior, and refuse to repent.

And they that believe not unto eternal damnation; for they cannot be redeemed from their spiritual fall, because they repent not;



For they love darkness rather than light, and their deeds are evil, and they receive their wages of whom they list to obey.

Thorns and Briers

An abundance of thistles and thorns grew in the Holy Land, and they did not escape the figurative eye of Jesus and His Apostles.



Thistles and thorns served only to afflict and annoy. The parable of the four kinds of soil has seeds falling among thorns, which sprang up and choked the seeds.



Those thorns represented the cares and pleasures of this world and the "deceitfulness of riches"

Thorns do not symbolize anything good or positive in the scriptures. Rather, "that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned."

Hope As An Anchor

"Hope is a gift of the Spirit. It is a hope that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ and the power of His Resurrection, we shall be raised unto life eternal and this because of our faith in the Savior.

This kind of hope is both a principle of promise as well as a commandment, and, as with all commandments, we have the responsibility to make it an active part of our lives and overcome the temptation to lose hope.

Our hope in God's promises is a spiritual anchor for our souls.

Diligence Faith
Patience

Hope in our Heavenly Father's merciful plan of happiness leads to peace, mercy, rejoicing, and gladness. The hope of salvation is like a protective helmet; it is the foundation of our faith and an anchor to our souls."

Peace Mercy Rejoicing Gladness Protection

Through diligence to the end, faith in Jesus Christ, and patience, we can inherit the blessings God has promised.

Sources:

- 1. New Testament Institute Student Manual Chapter 48
- 2. President Boyd K. Packer ("The Aaronic Priesthood," Ensign, Nov. 1981, 32).
- 3. Bible Dictionary
- 4. Robert J. Matthews, "I Have a Question," Ensign, Aug. 1987, 21
- 5. President James E. Faust ("Obedience: The Path to Freedom," Ensign, May 1999, 46–47).
- 6. Elder Russell M. Nelson Perfection Pending Oct. 1995 Gen. Conf.
- 7. President Thomas S. Monson The Three Rs of Choice Oct. 2010 Gen. Conf.
- 8. President Dieter F. Uchtdorf ("The Infinite Power of Hope," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2008, 21–22).

LETTER TO THE HEBREWS—BELIEVED WRITTEN BY PAUL (HEBREWS)		
Christ Called to the Holy Priesthood	5:4-14	
"Let Us Go On unto Perfection"	6:1–3	
Sons of Perdition Crucify Christ Afresh	6:4–9	
God Swears That the Faithful Shall Be Saved	6:10–20	
Life and Teachings of Jesus and His Apostles Chapter 46		
Aaron and Priesthood Hebrews 5:1-4		

After the time of Aaron, the high priest was selected from among the priestly families descended from Aaron and his sons. In ancient Israel, the office of high priest was an office in the Aaronic Priesthood and was comparable to the office of Presiding Bishop of the Church in our day. Aaron's sons and other Levites performed many tasks, including serving in the tabernacle, conducting the morning and evening sacrifices in the tabernacle and later in the Jerusalem temple, keeping watch over the fire of the sacred altar, and teaching the people of Israel the commandments. Both the Old and New Testaments show that priesthood holders received the priesthood through being ordained by an authorized holder of the priesthood. This practice continues in the Church today. (1)

Aaronic Priesthood:

"After mankind had been waiting for centuries for God's authority to be restored, the power and glory of the holy Aaronic Priesthood returned to the earth. In section 107 of the Doctrine and Covenants, we learn why the lesser priesthood is called the Aaronic Priesthood:

"The second priesthood is called the Priesthood of Aaron, because it was conferred upon Aaron and his seed, throughout all

their generations. "Why it is called the lesser priesthood is because it is an appendage to the greater, or the Melchizedek Priesthood, and has power in administering outward ordinances. ...

"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 107:13–14, 20).

Not only do young men of the Aaronic Priesthood receive the power and authority to be agents of the Lord in carrying out their priesthood responsibilities, but they also receive the keys of the ministering of angels."L. Tom Perry The Priesthood of Aaron 2010 Oct. Gen. Conf.

"What kind of a man was this Melchizedek? ...The Joseph Smith Translation provides an additional 16 verses in Genesis 14 (Gen. 14:25-40) ...As a child Melchizedek had such faith as to stop the mouths of lions and quench the violence of fire (see also JST, Heb. 5:7). He was ordained a high priest after the order of the Son of God. He was a prophet like unto Enoch who had power through his faith over the elements, over the nations of the earth, and the power to stand in the presence of God 'by the will of the Son of God which was from before the foundation of the world' (JST, Gen. 14:31).

In addition to his biblical title 'King of peace' (Heb. 7:2), in the Joseph Smith Translation of Genesis 14:33 [Gen. 14:33] we learn Melchizedek was called by his people 'the Prince of peace,' another title identifying him as a type foreshadowing the ministry of Jesus Christ." (David Rolph Seely, "The Joseph Smith Translation: 'Plain and Precious Things' Restored," *Ensign*, Aug. 1997, 14)

Christ and Mechizedek Hebrews 5:8:

"Our discipleship is to be patterned after that of the Master (2 Nephi 31:16-17), who 'learned. . . obedience by the things which he suffered' (Hebrews 5:8). Can we expect it to be otherwise with us? We who are entreated to take his yoke upon us (Matthew 11:29) cannot expect immunity from tutoring and suffering at the hands of a loving Father." elder Neal A. Maxwell (Not My Will, But Thine [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1998], 4.)

Learning Obedience Hebrews 5:8:

"So it is in our day. God grant that you and I may learn obedience to God's will, if necessary by the things which we suffer. One of the things that characterizes us as Saints, as King Benjamin told us, was to be 'submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.' (Mosiah 3:19.)" President Harold B. Lee (*Conference Report, October 1965*, Afternoon Meeting 130 - 131.)

"[Joseph Smith] said that the plural term 'baptisms' in this passage had reference to baptism for the living, baptism for the dead, and rebaptism. (Hebrews 6:1-2.)" (Hyrum L. Andrus and Helen Mae Andrus, comps., They Knew the Prophet, p. 87 **Crucify To Themselves Hebrews 6:6:**

Baptisms (Plural) Hebrews 6:2

Paul used the phrase "crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh" (Hebrews 6:6) to describe the actions of those who will not be forgiven because they turn from knowledge of the truth and will not repent. (1) **Crucify To Themselves Hebrews 6:6:**

"Commission of the unpardonable sin consists in crucifying unto oneself the Son of God afresh and putting him to open shame. (Heb. 6:4-8; D. & C. 76:34-35.) To commit this unpardonable crime a man must receive the gospel, gain from the Holy Ghost by revelation the absolute knowledge of the divinity of Christ, and then deny 'the new and everlasting covenant by which he was sanctified, calling it an unholy thing, and doing despite to the Spirit of grace.' [History of the Church, 3:232.] He thereby commits murder by assenting unto the Lord's death, that is, having a perfect knowledge of the truth he comes out in open rebellion and places himself in a position wherein he would have crucified Christ knowing perfectly the while that he was the Son of God. Christ is thus crucified afresh and put to open shame. (D. & C. 132:27.)" Elder Bruce R. McConkie (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 3:161).

Sons of Perdition: "These who are to be so severely punished must first have the testimony of the gospel and by the power of the Holy Ghost know that Jesus is the Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God. Afterwards if they sin and openly and wilfully turn against the truth and deny Christ, they assent unto his death, and this is equivalent to crucifying him again and the to Gospel Questions, 5 vols. [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1957-1966], 1: 63.)

shedding of innocent blood, and they put him to open shame." Joseph Fielding Smith (Answers God is Not Unrighteous Hebrews 6:10: "...a follower of Christ is obligated to serve him. Many scriptural references to the name of the Lord seem to be references to the work of his kingdom. Thus, when Peter and the other Apostles were beaten, they rejoiced 'that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.' (Acts 5:41.) Paul wrote certain members who had ministered to the Saints that the Lord would not forget the labor of love they had 'shewed toward his name.' (Heb. 6:10.) According to this meaning, by witnessing our willingness to take upon us the name of Jesus Christ, we signify our willingness to do the work of his kingdom." Elder Dalllin H. Oaks ("Taking upon Us the Name of Jesus Christ," Ensign, May 1985, 80)

Hope Hebrews 6:11-19: "[Paul] was careful to press upon them the necessity of continuing on until they, as well as those who inherited the promises, might have the assurance of their salvation confirmed to

anciently, and Paul holds it out to his brethren as an object attainable in his day. And why not?... "If the Saints in the days of the apostles were privileged to...[know] that their names were written in the Lamb's book of life and that they were sealed there as a perpetual memorial before the face of the Most High, will not the same faithfulness, the same purity of heart, and

the same faith bring the same assurance of eternal life-and that in the same manner-to the

Commentary on the Bible [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book Co., 1994], 190.)

to be constant companions, as are faith, hope, and charity.

children of men now in this age of the world?" (Kent P. Jackson, comp. and ed., Joseph Smith's

"Is it any wonder, then, if, in His plan, our 'faith and patience' are regularly tried? (See Mosiah

'through faith and patience' (Hebrews 6:12). Abraham 'obtained the promise,' but only 'after he

had patiently endured' (Hebrews 6:15). Long-suffering, endurance, and patience are designed

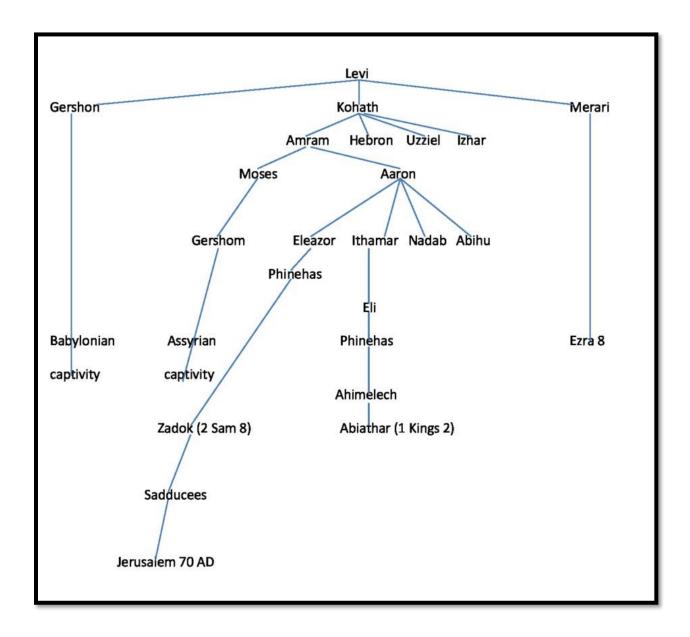
23:21.) Paul confirms that those who 'inherit the promises' are those who have triumphed

them by an oath from the mouth of him who could not lie. For that seemed to be the example

Patience Hebrews 6:12:

"While a person is thinking his way through his particular hesitations or reservations about faith, he might ask, 'Does God really know what I am passing through?' The answer is 'Yes!' He knows!" (Lord, Increase Our Faith [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1994], 39.)

Hope Hebrews 6:19: "Hope is a steadying influence. To say it is an anchor is to say it can keep us from drifting aimlessly or getting caught in whirlpools or running into sandbars. Hope, the anchor, is essential in this world so full of tidal waves. Sometimes those waves slap us from behind, sometimes we see them coming but cannot stop them or get out of the way. In all cases hope ties us to safety. The waves come and go in their fury or playfulness, but hope is always there if we will but use this sure anchor." Sister Elaine L. Jack ("A Perfect Brightness of Hope," Ensign, Mar. 1992, 14)



Priesthood Line

Moses and Aaron were sons of Kohath; and it was through Aaron's line that the priesthood continued until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., by way of his sons Eleazor, Ithamar, and Nadab and Abihu. The latter two met their end (and that of their lines) in Leviticus 10.

Ithamar's line ended in 2 Kings 2:26-27 with Abiathar.

Eleazor's line lived on until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

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