

Joseph Smith History

1:68-75

Doctrine and Covenants 13



Suggested
Song: The
Priesthood is
Restore #89
Children's
Songbook

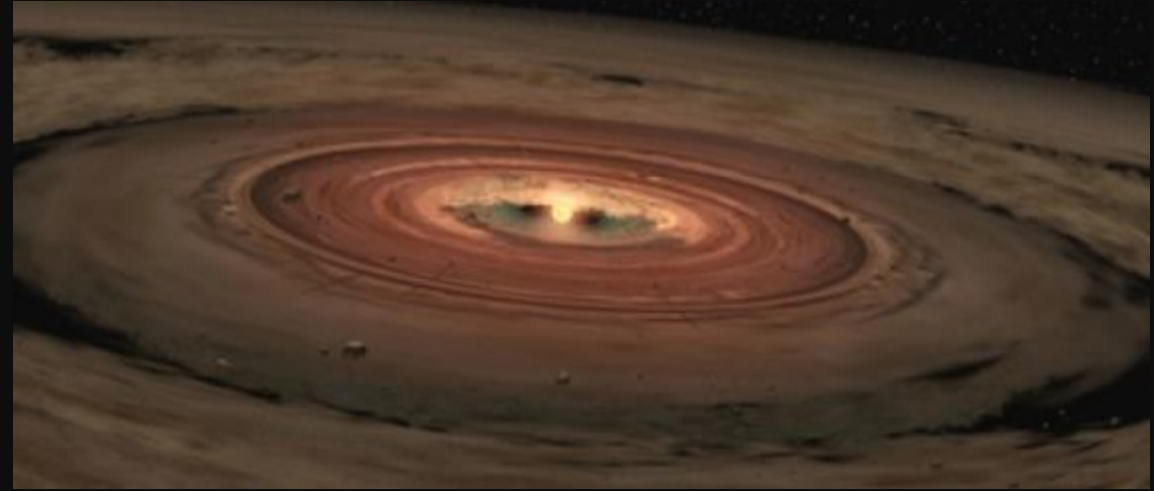
"And it shall be upon Aaron to minister: and his sound shall be heard when he goeth in unto the holy place before the LORD, and when he cometh out, that he die not."

Exodus 28:25



Universal Apostasy

Following the death of the Savior and His Apostles, over the centuries, man was no longer authorized to act for God.



Prophecy :

“The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant” (Isaiah 24:5).

As Promised by the Savior

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.

But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.”

Matthew 17:11-13



Prequiz

1. Where in the scriptures can we learn about the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood?

a. May 15, 1829

2. On what date was the Aaronic Priesthood restored?

b. By the Laying of Hands

3. What was the name of the angel who restored the Aaronic Priesthood to the earth by conferring it upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery?

c. Joseph Smith History or Doctrine and Covenants 13

4. How was the Aaronic Priesthood conferred upon them?

d. John the Baptist

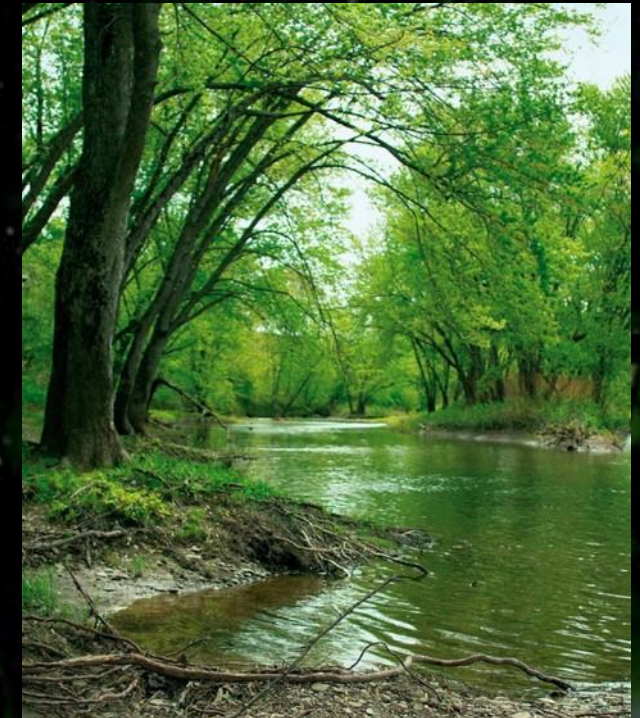
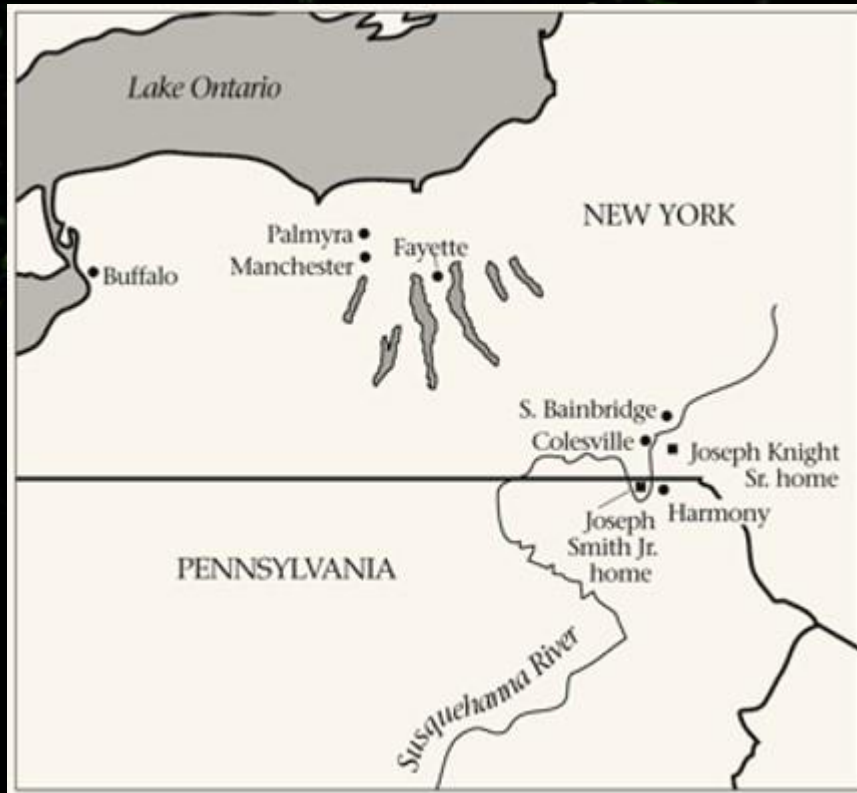
5. What else did the angel promise Joseph and Oliver they would receive? From whom would they receive it?

e. John the Baptist told them they would later receive the Melchizedek priesthood from the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

Into the Woods

May 15, 1829

“Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah, I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.”



Aaron Priesthood— the Lesser Priesthood

See D&C 107:13-14 and D&C 84:26-27

John, the Baptist held these key in the dispensation for the Meridian of Time, and because of this authority he was sent in the dispensation of the Fulness of Times to confer these keys in the day of restoration of all things.



This Priesthood...holds the keys of the preparatory Gospel, which is the Gospel of faith, repentance, and the remission of sins by baptism by immersion, but does not hold the authority of laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Levitical Duties of the Aaronic Priesthood

Confers authority to receive the ministrations of angels

To preach the gospel of repentance

To baptize for the remission of sins

To administer “The law of carnal commandment



This Priesthood attended to the Tabernacle and the Temple service including sacrifices

They took care of everything belonging to the Sanctuary

They kept the fire upon the altar burning continually

They dressed the burnt offerings and killed the Pascal lamb

They received the blood of the sacrifices in basins and sprinkled it round the altar

They disposed of the meat offerings and other offerings

They performed the ceremonies of purification and judged cases of leprosy

What does it mean that the Aaronic Priesthood holds [the key of] the ‘gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins’?

The meaning is found in the ordinance of baptism and in the sacrament. Baptism is for the remission of sins, and the sacrament is a renewal of the covenants and blessings of baptism. Both should be preceded by repentance. ...

“Not one of [us] has lived without sin since [our] baptism. Without some provision for further cleansing after our baptism, each of us is lost to things spiritual. ...



“We are commanded to repent of our sins and to come to the Lord with a broken heart and a contrite spirit and partake of the sacrament in compliance with its covenants. When we renew our baptismal covenants in this way, the Lord renews the cleansing effect of our baptism. ...

“We cannot overstate the importance of the Aaronic Priesthood in this. All of these vital steps pertaining to the remission of sins are performed through the saving ordinance of baptism and the renewing ordinance of the sacrament.

Both of these ordinances are officiated by holders of the Aaronic Priesthood under the direction of the bishopric, who exercise the keys of the gospel of repentance and of baptism and the remission of sins”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks

Angelic Messages



“As a young holder of the Aaronic Priesthood, I did not think I would see an angel, and I wondered what such appearances had to do with the Aaronic Priesthood.

“But the ministering of angels can also be unseen. Angelic messages can be delivered by a voice or merely by thoughts or feelings communicated to the mind”

Elder Dallin H. Oaks



Promises

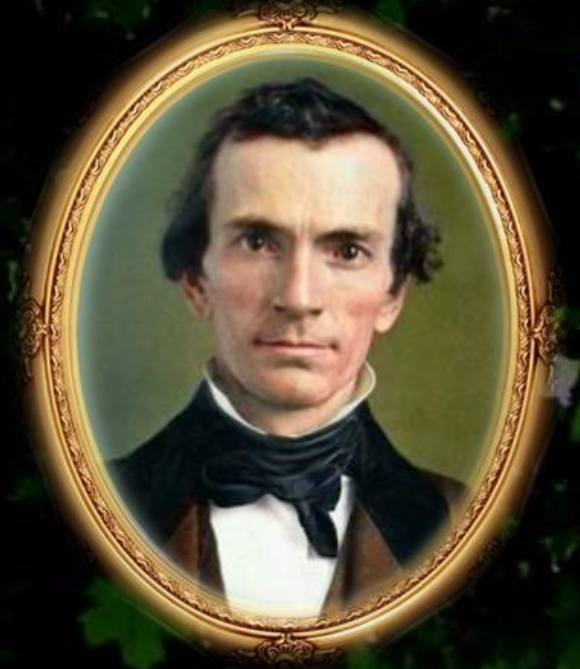


Since Joseph and Oliver had not yet received the *gift* of the Holy Ghost, what they experienced on this occasion was the *power* of the Holy Ghost.

Joseph and Oliver would receive the Melchizedek Priesthood for conferring the gift of the Holy Ghost at a later date

The power of the Holy Ghost can come upon a person before baptism and witness that the gospel is true. But the right to have the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost, whenever one is worthy, is a gift that can be received only by the laying on of hands by a Melchizedek Priesthood holder after authorized baptism into the true Church of Jesus Christ.

Guide to the Scriptures



Peter, James, and John

John acted by the authority of Peter,
James and John who held the key of the
Melchizedek Priesthood



Somewhere between May 15 and June of 1892

Peter, James, and John (the Beloved)
held the key of the Priesthood of
Melchizedek

These Priesthood keys of the higher
ordinances, including the laying on of
hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost

*"...The voice of Peter, James, and John in the
wilderness between Harmony, Susquehanna
county, and Colesville, Broome county, on the
Susquehanna river, declaring themselves as
possessing the keys of the kingdom, and of the
dispensation of the fulness of times!"*

D&C 128:20

Doctrinal Mastery

D&C 13:1



“Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of Messiah I confer the Priesthood of Aaron, which holds the keys of the ministering of angels, and of the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; and this shall never be taken again from the earth, until the sons of Levi do offer again an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.”

Sources:

Videos:

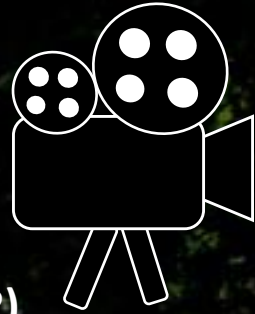
Days of Harmony (25:00)

Special Witness—Elder Bednar(3:46)

Keys of the Aaronic Priesthood(1:46)

Angelic Messages (0:53)

Restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood (1:02)



Hyrum M. Smith *Doctrine and Covenants Commentary* pg. 68-69

Elder Dallin H. Oaks (“The Aaronic Priesthood and the Sacrament,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 37–38).

D&C 13:1 Ministering of angels:

“I had the administration of angels while holding the office of a priest. I had visions and revelations. I traveled thousands of miles. I baptized men, though I could not confirm them because I had not the authority to do it.

“I speak of these things to show that a man should not be ashamed of any portion of the priesthood.” President Wilford Woodruff (*Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, p. 298.)

“This Shall Never Be Taken Again from the Earth”

“We may be sure that the Aaronic Priesthood will never be taken from the earth while mortality endures, for there will always be need for temporal direction and the performance of ordinances pertaining to ‘the preparatory Gospel.’” (Smith, *Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:62.)

Who Are the “Sons of Levi”?

President Joseph Fielding Smith explained that “after the children of Israel came out of Egypt and while they were sojourning in the wilderness, Moses received a commandment from the Lord to take Aaron and his sons and ordain them and consecrate them as priests for the people. (Ex. 28.) At that time the males of the entire tribe of Levi were chosen to be the priests instead of the firstborn of all the tribes, and Aaron and his sons were given the presidency over the Priesthood thus conferred. Since that time it has been known as the Priesthood of Aaron, including the Levitical Priesthood.” (*Church History and Modern Revelation*, 1:63.)

For Further Study of the Priesthood: The Restoration of the Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthoods

BY LARRY C. PORTER ENSIGN 1996 DEC.

Sons of Levi’s Offering:

It is generally supposed that sacrifice was entirely done away when the Great Sacrifice [i.e.,] the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus was offered up, and that there will be no necessity for the ordinance of sacrifice in the future; but those who assert this are certainly not acquainted with the duties, privileges and authority of the Priesthood, or with the Prophets.

“The offering of sacrifice has ever been connected and forms a part of the duties of the Priesthood. It began with the Priesthood, and will be continued until after the coming of Christ, from generation to generation. ...

“These sacrifices, as well as every ordinance belonging to the Priesthood, will, when the Temple of the Lord shall be built, and the sons of Levi be purified, be fully restored and attended to in all their powers, ramifications, and blessings. This ever did and ever will exist when the powers of the Melchizedek Priesthood are sufficiently manifest; else how can the restitution of all things spoken of by the Holy Prophets be brought to pass. It is not to be understood that the law of Moses will be established again with all its rites and variety of ceremonies; this has never been spoken of by the prophets; but those things which existed prior to Moses’ day, namely, sacrifice, will be continued.” (*Teachings*, pp. 172–73.)

President Joseph Fielding Smith further explained that “we are living in the dispensation of the fulness of times into which all things are to be gathered, and all things are to be restored since the beginning. Even this earth is to be restored to the condition which prevailed before Adam’s transgression. Now in the nature of things, the law of sacrifice will have to be restored, or all things which were decreed by the Lord would not be restored. It will be necessary, therefore, for the sons of Levi, who offered the blood sacrifices anciently in Israel, to offer such a sacrifice again to round out and complete this ordinance in this dispensation. Sacrifice by the shedding of blood was instituted in the days of Adam and of necessity will have to be restored.

Sacrifice: “The sacrifice of animals will be done to complete the restoration when the temple spoken of is built; at the beginning of the millennium, or in the restoration, blood sacrifices will be performed long enough to complete the fulness of the restoration in this dispensation. Afterwards sacrifice will be of some other character.” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 3:94.)

Keys

Elder Bruce R. McConkie explained that the revelations of God refer to *keys* in two ways:

“Two different usages of the term *keys* are found in the revelations. One has reference to the directive powers whereby the Church or kingdom and all its organizations are governed, the *keys of the kingdom* being the powers of presidency. The other usage refers to the means provided whereby something is revealed, discovered, or made manifest” (*Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. [1966], 409–10).

The ministering of angels

President Gordon B. Hinckley explained the ministering of angels this way:

“When Wilford Woodruff, a man who had lived many years and had many experiences, was the President of the Church, he said to the boys of the Aaronic Priesthood: ‘I desire to impress upon you the fact that it does not make any difference whether a man is a Priest or an Apostle, if he magnifies his calling. A Priest holds the keys of the ministering of angels,’ said he. ‘Never in my life, as an Apostle, as a Seventy, or as an Elder, have I ever had more of the protection of the Lord than while holding the office of a Priest.’ (*Millennial Star*, 53:629.)

“Think of it, my dear young brethren. This priesthood which you hold carries with it the keys of the ministering of angels. That means, as I interpret it, that if you live worthy of the priesthood, you have the right to receive and enjoy the very power of heavenly beings to guide you, to protect you, to bless you. What boy, if he is thoughtful, would not welcome this remarkable blessing?” (“The Priesthood of Aaron,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1982, 45).

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles offered the following insight into the **key of the ministering of angels**:

“In a closely related way, these ordinances of the Aaronic Priesthood are also vital to the ministering of angels.

“‘The word “angel” is used in the scriptures for any heavenly being bearing God’s message’ (George Q. Cannon, *Gospel Truth*, sel. Jerreld L. Newquist [1987], 54). The scriptures recite numerous instances where an angel appeared personally. ...

“But the ministering of angels can also be unseen. Angelic messages can be delivered by a voice or merely by thoughts or feelings communicated to the mind. ...

“... Most angelic communications are felt or heard rather than seen.

“How does the Aaronic Priesthood hold the key to the ministering of angels? The answer is the same as for the Spirit of the Lord.

“In general, the blessings of spiritual companionship and communication are only available to those who are clean. As explained earlier, through the Aaronic Priesthood ordinances of baptism and the sacrament, we are cleansed of our sins and promised that if we keep our covenants we will always have His Spirit to be with us. I believe that promise not only refers to the Holy Ghost but also to the ministering of angels, for ‘angels speak by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, they speak the words of Christ’ (2 Nephi 32:3). So it is that those who hold the Aaronic Priesthood open the door for all Church members who worthily partake of the sacrament to enjoy the companionship of the Spirit of the Lord and the ministering of angels. ...

“The Aaronic Priesthood holds the keys of the ‘gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins’ (D&C 84:27). The cleansing power of our Savior’s Atonement is renewed for us as we partake of the sacrament. The promise that we ‘may always have his Spirit to be with [us]’ (D&C 20:77) is essential to our spirituality. The ordinances of the Aaronic Priesthood are vital to all of this” (“The Aaronic Priesthood and the Sacrament,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, 38–40).