

Nature of our time together

DC 85:21b And I give unto you a commandment, that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the kingdom; teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that is expedient for you to understand;

DC 43:3a-b And now, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that when ye are assembled together, ye shall instruct and edify each other, that ye may know how to act and direct my church how to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given;

and thus ye shall become instructed in the law of my church, and be sanctified by that which ye have received, and ye shall bind yourselves to act in all holiness before me, that inasmuch as ye do this, glory shall be added to the kingdom which ye have received.

Priesthood Education

In the matter of the education of the minister, **every minister stands, not in competition with a fellow minister, but with himself**—charged by God to take his talents and abilities and so develop and train them that his productive capacity approaches nigh unto the potential accomplishments with which Diety has endowed him. (Source: *Priesthood Study Outlines; 1946* - The Education Of The Minister by Blair Jensen)

Lesson:

Why Priesthood?

What is Priesthood?

Prepared by Vim Horn for the CRE Education Committee – December 2022

God's Mission

...and there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man. DC 22:23b

Reason for the Mission

Once Adam and Eve, *because of their disobedience*, fell out of the eternal presence of God and saw him not—God, because of His love for his creation, **set in place a means to redeem His creation** so that they might once again come into his eternal presence.

A Plan of Redemption

Genesis 4:5 And he gave unto them commandments, that they should 1) worship the Lord their God; and should 2) offer the firstlings of their flocks for an offering unto the Lord. [1st Ordinance]

4:7-8...This thing is a similitude of the sacrifice of the Only Begotten of the Father, Wherefore, thou shalt do all that thou doest, in the name of the Son. And **thou shalt repent, and call upon God, in the name of the Son for evermore.** [1st ordinance is an ordinance of Sacrifice]

4:9 And in that day, the Holy Ghost fell upon Adam, which beareth record of the Father and the Son, saying, I am the Only Begotten of the Father from the beginning, henceforth and forever; that, as thou hast fallen, thou mayest be redeemed, and all mankind, even as many as will.

4:10 And in that day Adam blessed God, and was filled, and began to prophesy concerning all the families of the earth; saying, Blessed be the name of God, for, because of my transgression my eyes are opened, and in this life I shall have joy, and again, in the flesh I shall see God

The Plan of Redemption - Repentance and Baptism Enjoined

Genesis 6:49 And [Enoch] said unto them, **Because that Adam fell, we are; and by his fall came death, and we are made partakers of misery and woe. [Need for Redemption]**

6:50 Behold, **Satan hath come** among the children of men, and **tempteth them to worship him; and men have become carnal, sensual, and devilish, and are shut out from the presence of God. [Need for Repentance]**

6:51 But **God hath made known** unto our fathers, **that all men must repent. 6:52** And he called upon our father Adam, **by his own voice, saying, I am God; I made the world, and men before they were in the flesh.**

[God's Plan of Redemption]

6:53 And he also said unto him, **If thou wilt, turn unto me and hearken unto my voice, and believe, and repent of all thy transgressions, and be baptized, even in water, in the name of mine Only Begotten Son, who is full of grace and truth, which is Jesus Christ, the only name which shall be given under heaven, whereby salvation shall come** unto the children of men; and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, asking all things in his name, and whatsoever ye shall ask it shall be given you.**

A firm decree, *TO CHOOSE*, declared from the mouth of God to all

Genesis 4:13 And Satan came among them, saying,

I am also a son of God, and he commanded them, saying, Believe it not.

And they believed it not; and they loved Satan more than God.

And men began from that time forth to be carnal, sensual and devilish.

OUR CHOICE

Genesis 5:1-2 And the Lord God called upon men, by the Holy Ghost, everywhere,
and commanded them that they should repent;

And as many as believed in the Son, and repented of their sins, should be saved. And as many
as believed not, and repented not, should be damned.

And the words went forth out of the mouth of God, in a firm decree, wherefore they must be
fulfilled.

God's Plan of Redemption--Agency, an Instrumental Part

They are agents unto themselves—all men, everywhere, must repent

Genesis 6:55-56 And the Lord said unto Adam, Behold, I have forgiven thee thy transgression in the garden of Eden. Hence came the saying abroad among the people, that the Son of God hath atoned for original guilt,

6:57-58 And the Lord spake unto Adam, saying, Inasmuch as thy children are conceived in sin, even so, when they begin to grow up sin conceiveth in their hearts, and they taste the bitter, that they may know to prize the good. And it is given unto them to know good from evil; wherefore, **they are agents unto themselves.**

6:59-60 And I have given unto you another law and commandment; wherefore teach it unto your children, that all men, everywhere, must repent, or they can in no wise inherit the kingdom of God. For no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence...

**As part of God's plan, a probation period was provided where man might freely exercise his agency and choose –
God's way or Satan's way (I Corinthians 10:21)**

The plan could not be accomplished unless man was taught repentance and redemption through faith on the name of Christ. He did that with Adam through the ministry of Angels.

D&C 28:12a-12c “But, behold, I say unto you, that I, the Lord God, gave unto Adam and unto his seed, that they should not die as to the temporal death, until I, **the Lord God, should send forth angels to declare unto them repentance and redemption through faith on the name of mine only begotten Son**; and thus did I, the Lord God, **appoint unto man the days of his probation**; that by his natural death, he might be raised in immortality unto eternal life, even as many as would believe, and they that believed not, unto eternal damnation.”

Romans 10:14 - How shall they...?

*How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and
How shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and
How shall they hear without a preacher?*

- There would be virtually no hope of our fellow probationers being saved through God's plan in this evil, carnal, and sensual world without teachers with a method of teaching those of us who are probationers, and without those teachers being authorized and empowered with divine power.
Thus, the need for authorized and empowered representatives of God to declare unto them repentance and redemption through faith on the name of Jesus. Christ, at the direction of God the Father through the Holy Ghost, proceeded to do that very thing.

Knowledge of God and the Gospel from the beginning

- *We have now traced the chronology of the world, agreeable to the account given in our present Bible, from Adam to Abraham, & have clearly determined beyond the power of controversy, that there was no difficulty in preserving the knowledge of God in the world from the creation of Adam, & the manifestation made to his immediate descendants, – Lectures of Faith 2:53*
- Priesthood, instituted in Adam's time by ordinance, handed down from father to son, & continues in all generations –

Genesis 5:44-45 And thus the gospel began to be preached from the beginning, being declared by holy angels, sent forth from the presence of God; and by his own voice, and by the gift of the Holy Ghost.

And thus all things were confirmed unto Adam by an holy ordinance; and the gospel preached; and a decree sent forth that it should be in the world until the end thereof; and thus it was. Amen.

Priesthood from Beginning to End and is Lineal

Genesis 6:7 this same priesthood which was in the beginning, shall be in the end of the world also.
See also Genesis 6:31

DC 83:2c-3a The holy priesthood, which he [Moses] received under the hand of his father-in-law, Jethro;...[which came down from Adam] which priesthood continueth in the church of God in all generations, and is without beginning of days or end of years...And the Lord confirmed a priesthood also upon Aaron and his seed throughout all their generations, which priesthood also continueth and abideth forever, with the priesthood which is after the holiest order of God.

PRIESTHOOD IS LINEAL – Originally handed from father to son – (DC 104:18-29) Subsequently, lineal in the sense of being able to trace priesthood authority to someone with authority

Hebrews 7:3 For this Melchizedek was ordained a priest after the order of the Son of God, which order was without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life. And all those who are ordained unto this priesthood are made like unto the Son of God, abiding a priest continually.

Why Priesthood? To Preach and Teach the Doctrine of Christ

Scripture confirms that a form of Priesthood has always been, and apparently always will be because God the Father willed it so, and Christ, through the Holy Ghost made it so, so that all of God's creation will have the opportunity to choose God and His plan of redemption. Without Priesthood, there would be very limited hope for God's creation on the Earth where Satan rules. Truly, how could any learn of the Power of the Spirit unless there is an approved preacher.

3 Nephi 5:40-43 And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them. And whoso shall declare more or less than this, and establish it for my doctrine, the same cometh of evil, and is not built upon my rock, but he buildeth upon a sandy foundation, and the gates of hell standeth open to receive such, when the floods come, and the winds beat upon them. **Therefore go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth.**

Why Priesthood?

Alma 3:83-87 And I say unto you, that I know that Jesus Christ shall come; yea, the Son, the only begotten of the Father, full of grace, and mercy, and truth. And behold, it is he that cometh to take away the sins of the world; yea, the sins of every man who steadfastly believeth on his name. And now I say unto you, **that this is the order after which I am called; yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren; yea, and every one that dwelleth in the land;** Yea, to preach unto all, both old and young, both bond and free; yea, I say unto you, the aged, and also the middle aged, and the rising generation; yea, to cry unto them that they must repent and be born again; Yea, thus saith the Spirit, Repent all ye ends of the earth, for the kingdom of heaven is soon at hand; yea, the Son of God cometh in his glory, in his might, majesty, power and dominion.

Alma 19:22-23 Behold, I say unto you, that it is he [Christ] that surely shall come, to take away the sins of the world; yea, he cometh to declare glad tidings of salvation unto his people. And now my son, this was the ministry unto which ye were called, to declare these glad tidings unto this people, to prepare their minds; or rather that salvation might come unto them, that they may prepare the minds of their children to hear the word at the time of his coming. See also **Alma 9:63 – 64, 65**

What is Priesthood?

- Priesthood sets men apart to become one with Christ in His work. It can be defined as follows: “Priesthood is 1) the power of God operating in men, 2) chosen of him, 3) **ordained and set apart according to the provisions of his law**, 4) for the ministering of His gospel of salvation to mankind, in word and in ordinance. This priesthood or power carries with it authority to act in Christ's stead. by faith in him, in any and all matters which are expedient according to his will.” —*The Nature of Priesthood*, Charles Fry - pg.5

"Priesthood is the 1) power of divine life 2) planted in the souls of willing and responsive men. 3) chosen of God 4) to minister that life to mankind for their spiritual quickening, to prepare them for a fullness of everlasting life in the kingdom of God" —*The Nature of Priesthood*, Charles Fry - pg. 32

- Priesthood is an Oath and A Covenant from God He Cannot Break – Only We Can - *D&C 83: 6f-i*

Priesthood Belongs to God—All Christian Ministry Must Be Authorized if it is to Be Effective.

God Ordains and Confers Authority—Not Man - *Romans 13:1; John 3:28; Mosiah 11:118;*

“It is thus that his authority becomes real and effective...When a man acting under divine priesthood speaks and acts in the line of his commission”_his words and works are authoritative and are the same force and effect as if Christ himself had spoken and done them. They carry to the hearers the responsibility of heeding and obeying, and they impose upon them the consequences of their decision, whether they accept and obey or disregard and reject; the one to blessing and life, and the other to condemnation and death.” *The Nature of Priesthood*, Charles Fry, pg. 6

What is the purpose of God's priesthood?

“The powers of priesthood . . . Are confirmed for no other purpose than the salvation of man, and are continued only in the just exercise of them in the pursuit of this object; hence any act of any man called to this calling, performed with any other intent, or attended with a different result is not authorized of God, and hence does not bind the powers of heaven.” — **Joseph Smith, III, *The Saints' Herald*, vol. 24, pg. 168.**

"Priesthood on earth is the authority and order of God committed unto men, by which they are duly empowered and commissioned to preach the gospel and administer the ordinances thereof; namely, to baptize, lay on hands, bless, administer the Lord's supper, ordain, and perform any and all other duties required in the administration of the government of His church, or kingdom, among men." *Presidency and Priesthood*, William H. Kelley

- **Without authorized priesthood to administer the ordinances, the power and knowledge of God is not manifest unto men in the flesh - DC 83:3c**

Priesthood Offices Not Dependent On Us

The offices of the priesthood can exist with or without an occupant.

The removing of the officer does not destroy the office any more than the death of the President of the United States destroys the office which he holds...So it is in all the essential offices of the government.

This is true of the kingdom of God or church of Jesus Christ. God designated men for the several offices of the priesthood. They were duly authorized to occupy them. When any one of them was removed, by death or otherwise, another was appointed to succeed him in the same office.”

The offices of the priesthood are varied, bear distinctive names, and are made continuous. **The occupants may be removed, but the offices remain, having been fixed by the hand of Deity.** Those permitted to hold the several positions take the name of the office to which they are respectively assigned, not the office the names of the persons.

(Presidency and Priesthood, William H. Kelley)

Some Question the Relevance of Priesthood as Part of Christian Ministry

If men could properly administer before the Lord in olden times without the authority of either the Melchisedec or the Aaronic priesthoods, why was the use of either established? The admission that God has at any time committed the priesthood as a means of authorizing, men to administer before him acceptably, must be taken as positive evidence of its necessity.

To put the question beyond all controversy that the Christian ministry was authorized by being placed in positions in the priesthood, we have but to refer to the language of Peter, as follows:— “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”—1 Peter ii.5.

...[Either]Peter is a false witness, or the priesthood was given to the Christian ministry. It would be folly to talk of a priesthood where there was none; and where there was a priesthood there was a priest’s office and a priest.

(Presidency and Priesthood, William H. Kelley)

Hastening Time - If Not Now-When?

“I admonish the Church, and particularly those of the priesthood, that the hastening time being upon us there is great necessity for confidence in the men of the Church chosen for positions of great responsibility, and all should consecrate of their talents, abilities, and substance for the prosecution of the great work intrusted to us.

Everywhere the demand for great activity exists, and for the accomplishment of our work the great essential is fraternal cooperation in service to man and devoted consecration to God and his work.” (Doctrine and Covenants 132:3-4)