

Joseph Smith - History 1:15-20



15 AFTER I HAD RETIRED TO THE PLACE WHERE I HAD PREVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO GO, HAVING LOOKED AROUND ME, AND FINDING MYSELF ALONE, I KNEELED DOWN AND BEGAN TO OFFER UP THE DESIRES OF MY HEART TO GOD. I HAD SCARCELY DONE SO, WHEN IMMEDIATELY I WAS SEIZED UPON BY SOME POWER WHICH ENTIRELY OVERCAME ME, AND HAD SUCH AN ASTONISHING INFLUENCE OVER ME AS TO BIND MY TONGUE SO THAT I COULD NOT SPEAK. THICK DARKNESS GATHERED AROUND ME, AND IT SEEMED TO ME FOR A TIME AS IF I WERE DOOMED TO SUDDEN DESTRUCTION.

16 BUT, EXERTING ALL MY POWERS TO CALL UPON GOD TO DELIVER ME OUT OF THE POWER OF THIS ENEMY WHICH HAD SEIZED UPON ME, AND AT THE VERY MOMENT WHEN I WAS READY TO SINK INTO DESPAIR AND ABANDON MYSELF TO DESTRUCTION—NOT TO AN IMAGINARY RUIN, BUT TO THE POWER OF SOME ACTUAL BEING FROM THE UNSEEN WORLD, WHO HAD SUCH MARVELOUS POWER AS I HAD NEVER BEFORE FELT IN ANY BEING—JUST AT THIS MOMENT OF GREAT ALARM, I SAW A PILLAR OF LIGHT EXACTLY OVER MY HEAD, ABOVE THE BRIGHTNESS OF THE SUN, WHICH DESCENDED GRADUALLY UNTIL IT FELL UPON ME.

17 IT NO SOONER APPEARED THAN I FOUND MYSELF DELIVERED FROM THE ENEMY WHICH HELD ME BOUND. WHEN THE LIGHT RESTED UPON ME I SAW TWO PERSONAGES, WHOSE BRIGHTNESS AND GLORY DEFY ALL DESCRIPTION, STANDING ABOVE ME IN THE AIR. ONE OF THEM SPAKE UNTO ME, CALLING ME BY NAME AND SAID, POINTING TO THE OTHER—THIS IS MY BELOVED SON. HEAR HIM!

18 MY OBJECT IN GOING TO INQUIRE OF THE LORD WAS TO KNOW WHICH OF ALL THE SECTS WAS RIGHT, THAT I MIGHT KNOW WHICH TO JOIN. NO SOONER, THEREFORE, DID I GET POSSESSION OF MYSELF, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO SPEAK, THAN I ASKED THE PERSONAGES WHO STOOD ABOVE ME IN THE LIGHT, WHICH OF ALL THE SECTS WAS RIGHT (FOR AT THIS TIME IT HAD NEVER ENTERED INTO MY HEART THAT ALL WERE WRONG)—AND WHICH I SHOULD JOIN.

19 I WAS ANSWERED THAT I MUST JOIN NONE OF THEM, FOR THEY WERE ALL WRONG; AND THE PERSONAGE WHO ADDRESSED ME SAID THAT ALL THEIR CREEDS WERE AN ABOMINATION IN HIS SIGHT; THAT THOSE PROFESSORS WERE ALL CORRUPT; THAT: "THEY DRAW NEAR TO ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEARTS ARE FAR FROM ME, THEY TEACH FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN, HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS, BUT THEY DENY THE POWER THEREOF."

20 HE AGAIN FORBADE ME TO JOIN WITH ANY OF THEM; AND MANY OTHER THINGS DID HE SAY UNTO ME, WHICH I CANNOT WRITE AT THIS TIME. WHEN I CAME TO MYSELF AGAIN, I FOUND MYSELF LYING ON MY BACK, LOOKING UP INTO HEAVEN. WHEN THE LIGHT HAD DEPARTED, I HAD NO STRENGTH; BUT SOON RECOVERING IN SOME DEGREE, I WENT HOME. AND AS I LEANED UP TO THE FIREPLACE, MOTHER INQUIRED WHAT THE MATTER WAS. I REPLIED, "NEVER MIND, ALL IS WELL—I AM WELL ENOUGH OFF." I THEN SAID TO MY MOTHER, "I HAVE LEARNED FOR MYSELF THAT PRESBYTERIANISM IS NOT TRUE." IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE ADVERSARY WAS AWARE, AT A VERY EARLY PERIOD OF MY LIFE, THAT I WAS DESTINED TO PROVE A DISTURBER AND AN ANNOYER OF HIS KINGDOM; ELSE WHY SHOULD THE POWERS OF DARKNESS COMBINE AGAINST ME? WHY THE OPPOSITION AND PERSECUTION THAT AROSE AGAINST ME, ALMOST IN MY INFANCY?

And also those to whom these commandments were given, might have power to lay the foundation of this church, and

TO BRING IT FORTH
OUT OF OBSCURITY



THE ONLY TRUE AND
LIVING CHURCH

AND OUT OF
DARKNESS,

UPON THE FACE OF
THE WHOLE EARTH,

with which I, the Lord, am well pleased, speaking unto the church collectively and not individually—

Doctrine & Covenants 1:30

Search these commandments

for they are true and faithful, and the prophecies and promises which are in them shall all be fulfilled.

What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled,



whether by mine own voice

or by the voice of my servants,

Doctrine & Covenants 1:37-38

it is the same.



unto me in every thought;

doubt not,
fear not.

Doctrine & Covenants 6:36

Yea, behold, I will tell you in your

mind and in your **heart**



by the Holy Ghost, which shall come upon you and which shall dwell in your heart.

Now, behold, this is the **spirit of revelation**; behold, this is the spirit by which Moses brought the children of Israel through the Red Sea on dry ground.

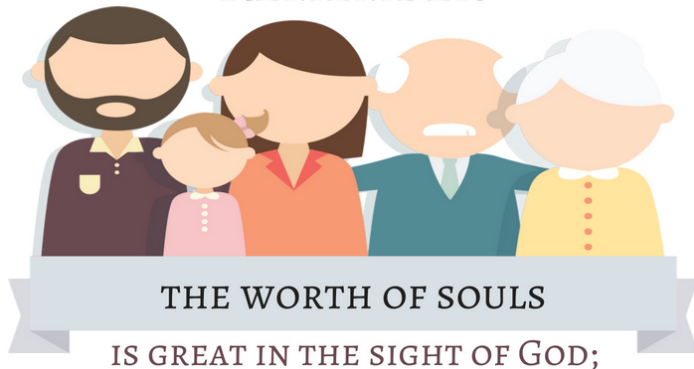
DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 8:2-3

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.

Doctrine & Covenants 13:1



REMEMBER



THE WORTH OF SOULS

IS GREAT IN THE SIGHT OF GOD;

For, behold, the Lord your Redeemer suffered death in the flesh; wherefore he suffered the pain of all men, that all men might repent and come unto him.

DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 18:10-11

AND IF IT SO BE THAT YOU SHOULD LABOR ALL YOUR DAYS IN CRYING REPENTANCE UNTO THIS PEOPLE, AND BRING, SAVE IT BE ONE SOUL UNTO ME, HOW GREAT SHALL BE YOUR **joy** WITH HIM IN THE KINGDOM OF MY FATHER!



AND NOW, IF YOUR **joy** WILL BE GREAT WITH ONE SOUL THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT UNTO ME INTO THE KINGDOM OF MY FATHER, HOW GREAT WILL BE YOUR **joy** IF YOU SHOULD BRING MANY SOULS UNTO ME!

Doctrine & Covenants 18:15-16

For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all,
that they might not suffer if they would repent;

But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I;



Which suffering caused myself, even God,
the greatest of all, to tremble because
of pain, and to bleed at every pore,
and to suffer both body and spirit—
and would that I might not drink the
bitter cup, and shrink—

Nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I
partook and finished my preparations unto
the children of men.

Doctrine & Covenants 19:16-19

Doctrine & Covenants 21:4-6

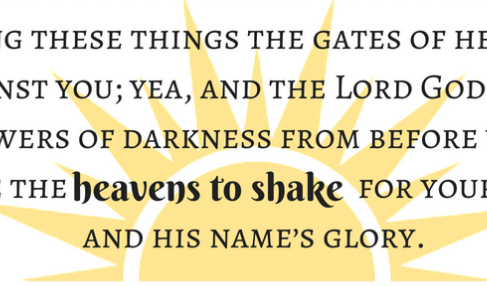
WHEREFORE, MEANING THE CHURCH, THOU SHALT
GIVE HEED UNTO ALL HIS WORDS AND COMMANDMENTS
WHICH HE SHALL GIVE UNTO YOU AS HE RECEIVETH THEM,
walking in all holiness BEFORE ME;



FOR HIS WORD YE SHALL RECEIVE, AS IF FROM MINE OWN
MOUTH, IN ALL PATIENCE AND FAITH.



FOR BY DOING THESE THINGS THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT
PREVAIL AGAINST YOU; YEA, AND THE LORD GOD WILL DISPERSE
THE POWERS OF DARKNESS FROM BEFORE YOU, AND
CAUSE THE **heavens to shake** FOR YOUR GOOD,
AND HIS NAME'S GLORY.

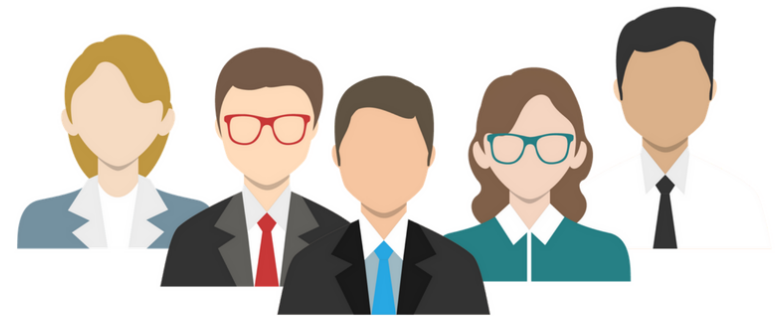


For the hour is nigh, and that which was spoken by
mine apostles must be fulfilled;
for as they spoke so shall it come to pass;



For I will reveal myself from heaven with power and
great glory, with all the hosts thereof, and dwell in
righteousness with men on earth a thousand years,
and the wicked shall not stand.

Doctrine & Covenants 29:10-11



Again I say unto you, that it shall not be given to any
one to go forth to preach my gospel,
or to build up my church,
except he be ordained by some one who has authority,
and it is known to the church that he has
authority and has been regularly
ordained by the heads of the church.

Doctrine & Covenants 42:11

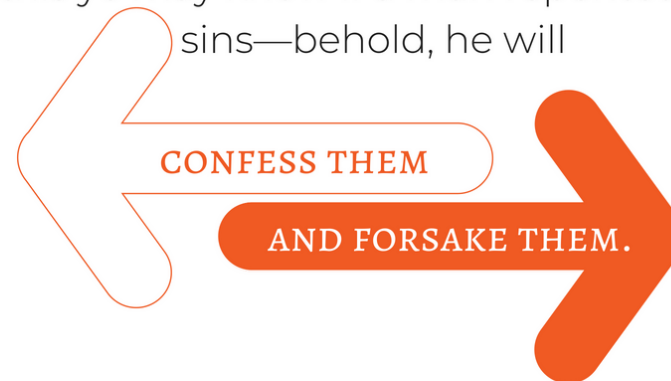
AND AGAIN, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT WHOSO FORBIDDETH
TO MARRY IS NOT ORDAINED OF GOD, FOR
marriage is ordained of God unto man.



WHEREFORE, IT IS LAWFUL THAT HE SHOULD HAVE ONE WIFE,
AND THEY TWAIN SHALL BE ONE FLESH, AND ALL THIS THAT THE
EARTH MIGHT ANSWER THE END OF ITS CREATION;
AND THAT IT MIGHT BE FILLED WITH THE MEASURE OF MAN,
ACCORDING TO HIS CREATION BEFORE THE WORLD WAS MADE.

Doctrine & Covenants 49:15-17

Behold, he who has repented of his sins,
the same is forgiven,
and I, the Lord, remember them no more.
By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his
sins—behold, he will



Doctrine & Covenants 58:42-43

WHEREFORE, I SAY UNTO YOU, THAT YE OUGHT TO
FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER ; FOR HE THAT
FORGIVETH NOT HIS BROTHER HIS
TRESPASSES STANDETH CONDEMNED
BEFORE THE LORD; FOR THERE
REMAINETH IN HIM THE GREATER SIN.
I, THE LORD, WILL FORGIVE WHOM I WILL FORGIVE,
BUT OF YOU IT IS REQUIRED TO **FORGIVE ALL MEN.**
AND YE OUGHT TO SAY IN YOUR HEARTS—
LET GOD JUDGE BETWEEN ME AND THEE,
AND REWARD THEE ACCORDING TO THY DEEDS.

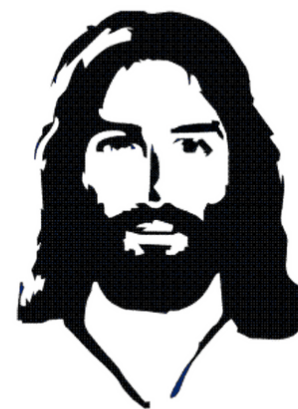


Doctrine & Covenants 64:9-11

And now, after the many testimonies
which have been given of him, this is the testimony,
last of all, which we give of him:

That he lives!

For we saw him,
even on the
right hand of
God; and we
heard the voice
bearing record
that he is the
Only Begotten
of the Father—



That by him, and
through him, and
of him, the
worlds are and
were created,
and the
inhabitants
thereof are
begotten sons
and daughters

Doctrine & Covenants 76:22-24 unto God.



I, THE LORD, AM BOUND WHEN YE DO WHAT I SAY;
BUT WHEN YE DO NOT WHAT I SAY,
YE HAVE NO PROMISE.

Doctrine & Covenants 82:10

Doctrine & Covenants 84:20-22

THEREFORE, IN THE ORDINANCES THEREOF,

*the power of
godliness is manifest.*



AND WITHOUT THE ORDINANCES THEREOF,
AND THE AUTHORITY OF THE PRIESTHOOD, THE POWER OF
GODLINESS IS NOT MANIFEST UNTO MEN IN THE FLESH;

FOR WITHOUT THIS NO MAN CAN SEE
THE FACE OF GOD, EVEN THE FATHER, AND LIVE.

Doctrine & Covenants 88:118

And as all have not faith, seek ye
diligently and teach one another
words of wisdom; yea,
seek ye out of the best books



words of wisdom;
seek learning,
even by study
and also by faith.



AND ALL SAINTS WHO REMEMBER TO KEEP AND DO THESE SAYINGS,
WALKING IN OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDMENTS, SHALL RECEIVE
HEALTH IN THEIR NAVEL AND MARROW TO THEIR BONES;

AND SHALL FIND WISDOM AND GREAT
TREASURES OF KNOWLEDGE, EVEN
HIDDEN TREASURES;

AND SHALL RUN AND NOT BE WEARY,
AND SHALL WALK AND NOT FAINT.

AND I, THE LORD, GIVE UNTO THEM A PROMISE,
THAT THE DESTROYING ANGEL SHALL PASS BY THEM,
AS THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AND NOT SLAY THEM. AMEN.



Doctrine & Covenants 89:18-21

DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 107:8

The Melchizedek Priesthood holds the right of presidency, and has power and authority over all the offices in the church in all ages of the world, to administer in spiritual things.



That the rights of the priesthood are **inseparably connected with the powers of heaven**, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the **principles of righteousness**.

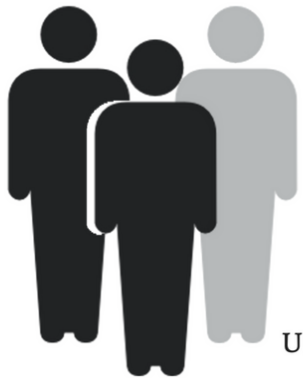


No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood, only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned;

By kindness, and pure knowledge, which shall greatly enlarge the soul without hypocrisy, and without guile—

Doctrine & Covenants 121:36, 41-42

THE FATHER HAS A BODY OF FLESH AND BONES AS TANGIBLE AS MAN'S; THE SON ALSO; BUT THE HOLY GHOST HAS NOT A BODY OF FLESH AND BONES, BUT IS A PERSONAGE OF SPIRIT. WERE IT NOT SO, THE HOLY GHOST COULD NOT DWELL IN US.



A MAN MAY RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST, AND IT MAY DESCEND UPON HIM AND NOT TARRY WITH HIM.

Doctrine & Covenants 130:22-23

In the celestial glory there are three heavens or degrees;

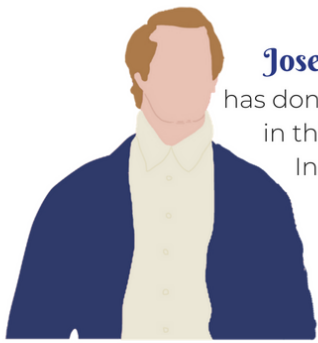
And in order to obtain the highest, a man must enter into this order of the priesthood [meaning the new and everlasting **covenant of marriage**];

And if he does not, he cannot obtain it.

He may enter into the other, but that is the end of his kingdom; he cannot have an increase.



DOCTRINE & COVENANTS 131:1-4



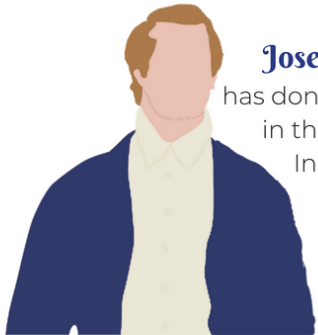
Joseph Smith, the Prophet and Seer of the Lord,

has done more, save Jesus only, for the salvation of men in this world, than any other man that ever lived in it.

In the short space of twenty years, he has brought forth the Book of Mormon, which he translated by the gift and power of God, and has been the means of publishing it on two continents; has sent the fulness of the everlasting gospel, which it contained, to the four quarters of the

earth; has brought forth the revelations and commandments which compose this book of Doctrine and Covenants, and many other wise documents and instructions for the benefit of the children of men; gathered many thousands of the Latter-day Saints, founded a great city, and left a fame and name that cannot be slain. He lived great, and he died great in the eyes of God and his people; and like most of the Lord's anointed in ancient times, has sealed his mission and his works with his own blood; and so has his brother Hyrum. In life they were not divided, and in death they were not separated!

Doctrine & Covenants 135:3



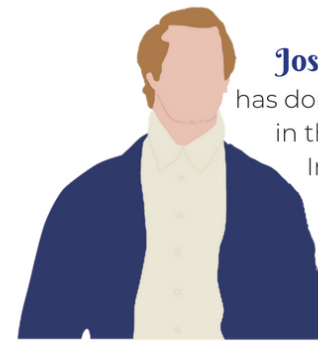
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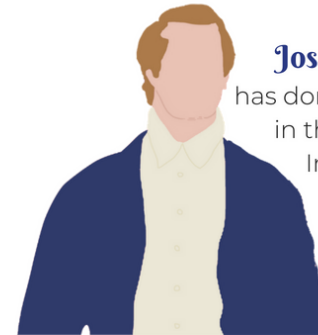
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