

King & Priest, Keys of Knowledge
(Priest Lesson June 2015 – Roald Peterson)

Introduction

- In previous lessons we learned about the priesthood being used to serve people, to bless people, and to perform gospel ordinances.
- We learned that there are priesthood keys for gathering Israel, sealing families together on both sides of the veil, and helping individuals become perfect even as God is perfect.
- In this lesson we are going to look at the priesthood and its keys in a somewhat different way.

Purpose of Priesthood and Keys

- ? What is the meaning of Melchizedek?
 - Melch = King. Zadok = Righteous.
 - ? What does Righteous mean?
 - To make and keep covenants (example baptism).
 - ? What is the difference between power and authority?
 - ? What is priesthood?
 - The authority to act in God's name – to do his work – to do what he would do if he were here.
 - It is also power – the ability to command in the name of God and have things obey as if you were God
 - When we go to the Temple and receive the endowment we make covenants and are anointed to prepare ourselves to become gods. We are anointed specifically to become kings and priests.
 - ? How is God a king? (Who is he king over?)
 - He rules over his children.
 - He is the ruler over all things in his kingdom.
 - He is also the creator of all things in his kingdom.
 - ? How is God a priest and who is he priest to?
 - He is a priest to his children.
 - ? What is the purpose of being a priest?
 - To serve and teach.
 - ? What does God, as a priest, teach?
 - He teaches his children how to become gods.
 - ? What is our purpose for being priests?
 - To learn how to become gods.
- (DC 84:19–22) 19 And this greater priesthood administereth the gospel and holdeth the key of the mysteries of the kingdom, even the key of the knowledge of God.
- [Roald: How to establish and maintain an everlasting kingdom. To know about God To know as God knows. To know God face to face.]*
- 20 Therefore, in the ordinances thereof, the power of godliness is manifest.
- 21 And without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh;
- 22 For without this no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live.

- This is not some strange, esoteric doctrine, but is at the core of the gospel. Gospel means good news, and the good news is that we can leave behind our fallen nature in this fallen world and literally come unto Christ and the Father.
 - (John 14:21, 23) 21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ...
 - 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
 - (1 John 3:2) Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- Most Mormons don't know or believe this doctrine. It makes them uncomfortable because it says that they could be and should be striving to become perfect here and now. It's much easier to think that we can be comfortable in Babylon in this life, and then finish the work of our exaltation later. But that isn't what the Lord teaches us.
 - (Alma 34:32) For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.
 - This next scripture is in a section of the Scriptures that speak of eternal marriage, including plural marriage. People who don't understand the gospel and the keys of the priesthood sometimes use this section as justification for polygamy. This passage is speaking of receiving God's law in general.
 - (DC 132:22-24) 22 For strait is the gate, and narrow the way that leadeth unto the exaltation and continuation of the lives, and few there be that find it, because ye receive me not in the world neither do ye know me.
 - 23 But if ye receive me in the world, then shall ye know me, and shall receive your exaltation; that where I am ye shall be also.
 - 24 This is eternal lives—to know the only wise and true God, and Jesus Christ, whom he hath sent. I am he. Receive ye, therefore, my law.
- ? What happens if we choose to ignore this greater gospel of exercising the keys to the mysteries of the kingdom and the key of the knowledge of God? Let's return to DC 84 and continue where we left off.
 - (DC 84:23-27) 23 Now this Moses plainly taught to the children of Israel in the wilderness, and sought diligently to sanctify his people that they might behold the face of God;
 - 24 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.

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- [Remember definition - God's rest is entering into the fullness of his glory – in this life as well as after.]

25 Therefore, he took Moses out of their midst, and the Holy Priesthood also;

26 And the lesser priesthood continued, which priesthood holdeth the key of the ministering of angels and the preparatory gospel;

27 Which gospel is the gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins, and the law of carnal commandments, ...

- ? That was 3000 years ago. What about now? I'm glad you were thinking that question. There is a prophecy of the end of the "times of the Gentiles," which is getting ready to be fulfilled. You will see this.

(3 Nephi 16:10–11) 10 And thus commandeth the Father that I should say unto you: At that day when the Gentiles shall sin against my gospel, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, and shall be lifted up in the pride of their hearts above all nations, and above all the people of the whole earth, and shall be filled with all manner of lyings, and of deceits, and of mischiefs, and all manner of hypocrisy, and murders, and priestcrafts, and whoredoms, and of secret abominations; and if they shall do all those things, and shall reject the fulness of my gospel, behold, saith the Father, I will bring the fulness of my gospel from among them.

11 And then will I remember my covenant which I have made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them.

You and Your Priesthood

- ? What does a priest of God do?
 - Ordinances, rites, ceremonies, lead people, teach, help, call to repentance, gather Israel, receive revelation, keep records,...
- ? What determines whether or not you are a good priest?
 - Each of you is one in 1000. For each of you there are 1000 people on the earth who were not priests and most of whom know very little about God, or who they are, or why they exist.
- ? Do you know enough about God to become like him?
- ? What should you be doing about it?
 - Learning to pray diligently, with real intent.
 - Searching the Scriptures – learning the word of God.
 - Striving to become a disciple of Christ.
 - How do we become a disciple of Christ?

Final Challenge

- I have a final challenge for you which comes out of the book of Alma.

(Alma 13:10–13) 10 Now, as I said concerning the holy order, or this high priesthood, there were many who were ordained and became high priests of God; and it was on account of their exceeding faith and repentance,

and their righteousness before God, they choosing to repent and work righteousness rather than to perish;

11 Therefore they were called after this holy order, and were sanctified, and their garments were washed white through the blood of the Lamb.

12 Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence; and there were many, exceedingly great many, who were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God.

[Rest = fulness of his glory – even in this life.]

13 And now, my brethren, I would that ye should humble yourselves before God, and bring forth fruit meet for repentance, that ye may also enter into that rest.