

To What Were You Called

THE NATURE OF PRIESTHOOD

Prepared by Elder Ray Magargee



- High Priest Charles Fry recorded in his book “THE NATURE OF PRIESTHOOD” (Herald House 1950)

- “Priesthood is the Power of God operating in men chosen of him, ordained and set apart according to provisions of his law, for the ministering of his gospel of salvation of mankind, in words 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.



JESUS DEFINED IT THIS WAY

Ye are my friends if you do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; but I have called your friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.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.

These things I command you, that ye love one another. John 15: 14-17



APOSTLES WERE GIVEN POWER

- THEY WERE COMMISSIONED: These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them saying: (Matthew 10:3)
Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils; freely you have received, freely give (Matthew 10:17)
- SENT AS SHEEP IN THE MIDST OF WOLVES: Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves; be ye therefore wise servants, and harmless as doves. (Matthew 10:14)
- DISCIPLE IS NOT ABOVE HIS MASTER: Remember, the disciple is not above his master; nor the servant above his Lord. It is enough that the disciple be **as** his master, and the servant **as** his Lord. (Matthew 10:21)

APOSTLES WERE GIVEN POWER

- DON'T FEAR THOSE WHO CAN KILL THE BODY: Fear not them who are able to kill the body, but are able to kill the soul; but rather fear him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:25)
- Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. (John 13:20)
- And behold and lo, this is an ensample unto all those who were ordained unto this Priesthood, whose mission is appointed unto them to go forth; and this is an ensample unto them, that they shall speak as they are moved upon by the Holy Ghost; and whatsoever they shall speak when moved upon by the Holy Ghost shall be scripture; shall be the will of the Lord; shall be the mind of the Lord; shall be the word of the Lord; shall be the voice of the Lord, and the Power of God unto salvation (Sec 68:1b-1c)

PRIESTHOOD ARE CALLED ACCORDING TO THEIR GIFTS AND CALLINGS

- And, behold, you are they who are ordained Priests and Teachers to declare my gospel, according to the Power of the Holy Ghost which is in you, and according to the callings and gifts of God unto men; and, I, Jesus Christ, your Lord and your God, have spoken it. (Sec 16:5e)
- Every Elder, Priest, Teacher, and Deacon is to be ordained according to the gifts and callings of God unto him. (Sec 17:12a)

PRIESTHOOD ARE TO SERVE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST THAT IS WITHIN THEM

What! Know ye not that your body is the Temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore Glorify God in your body, and in your Spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine, for the steadfastness of your all, making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:3-5)

PRIESTHOOD ARE TO SERVE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST THAT IS WITHIN THEM

- And make proposals for piece, unto those who have smitten you, according to the voice of the Spirit that is within you, and all things will work together for your good; therefore, be faithful and behold, and lo, I am with you, even unto the end. Even so, Amen. (*Sec 102:11c-11d*)
- That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus. (*Philemon 1:6*)



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THESE SCRIPTURES

- Priesthood are enabled – Instructed to ordain according the Power of the Holy Ghost that is with in them.
- Priesthood are to receive their authority from the Spirit that is within the one who ordains them.
- They can therefore, trace their authority back through the ones that ordained them; back to Christ



WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM THESE SCRIPTURES

- I have gone to the RLDS archives to trace my Priesthood lineage:
 - Elder Ammon Beebe
 - High Priest F. Henry Edwards
 - Joseph Smith III, Prophet, Seer, Revelator
 - High Priest William Marks (Jason Briggs, Zenos Gurly, assisted)
 - Joseph Smith Jr., Prophet, Seer, Revelator
 - Elder Oliver Cowdry (after being given authority by Peter, James & John)
 - Jesus Christ, Son of God

PRIESTHOOD ARE TO BECOME FRIENDS OF THE Lord Jesus

Please read all of the 14th chapter of John wherein Jesus has a conversation with his disciples.

“In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And whether I go, ye know, and the way ye know. Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

(Exerts from John 14:2-27)

PRIESTHOOD ARE TO BECOME FRIENDS OF THE Lord Jesus

- Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father, I have made known to you. (John 15:15)
- I called you servants for the world's sake, and you are their servants for my sake. (Sec 90: 8b)



PRIESTHOOD ARE TO BE SELECTED/CALLED OF GOD FOR AN ETERNAL STEWARDSHIP IN HIS ETERNAL GLORY

- Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you 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 to you.
(John 15:16)
- And having such an High Priest over the House of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised; and lets us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works; Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another; and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.
(Heb 10:21-26 CONTINUED)

PRIESTHOOD ARE TO BE SELECTED/CALLED OF GOD FOR AN ETERNAL STEWARDSHIP IN HIS ETERNAL GLORY

- For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sin. (Heb 10:21-26)
- Verily, Verily I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me. (John 13:20)

BEHOLD, WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN AS THE FOOLISH & WEAK TO CONFOUND THE WISE

- But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them that believe, both Jew and Greek, Christ, the Power of God, and the wisdom of God. **Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.** For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are chosen; For God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things that are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised, hath God chosen, ye and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are mighty; That no flesh should glorify in his presence. But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God has made unto us wisdom, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; That according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. (1 Cor 23-31)

PRIESTHOOD ARE TO SERVE THE FLOCK HUMBLY & WILLINGLY, BEING ENSAMPLES UNTO THEM

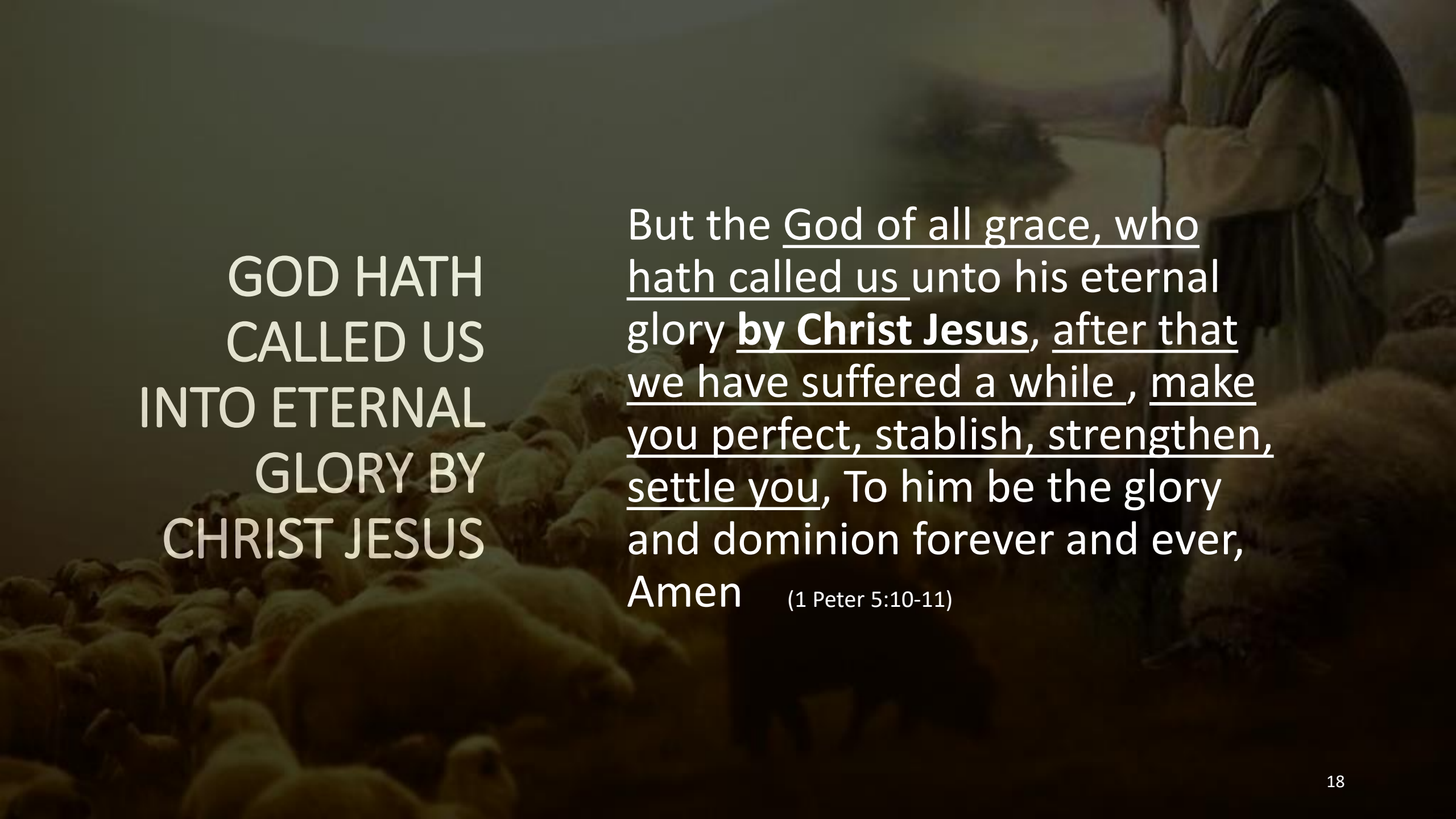
- The Elders which are among you I exhort, who am also and Elder, and a witness of the suffering of Christ, and also a partaker of the Glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being overlords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. (1 Peter 5:1-4)



PRIESTHOOD ARE TO SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER IN HUMILITY THAT HE MAY EXHAULT YOU IN DUE TIME

- **Likewise ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject to another, and be clothed with humility; for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exhalt you in due time (1 Peter 5:5-7)**





GOD HATH
CALLED US
INTO ETERNAL
GLORY BY
CHRIST JESUS

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that we have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you, To him be the glory and dominion forever and ever,
Amen (1 Peter 5:10-11)

Our calling DOES include suffering – Re: suffering of original Apostles

Simon, AKA Peter: Crucified upside Down (Probably after he watched his wife killed)

Andrew: was scourged, and then tied rather than nailed to a cross, so that he would suffer for a longer time before dying. Andrew lived for two days, during which he preached to passersby.

James, son of Zebedee: beheaded via a sword

John: Transfigured after imprisonment on the Isle

Philip: scourged & Crucified

Bartholomew: Skinned alive & beheaded

Thomas: martyred him by running him through with a spear

Matthew: stabbed in the back by an swordsman sent by King Hertacus

(Continued)

Continued:

James, son of Alphaeus: At the age of 94, he was beaten and stoned by persecutors, and then killed him by hitting him in the head with a club

Thaddaeus, AKA Lebbaeus, Judas or Jude: Crucified

Simon the Canaanite AKA the Zealot: Crucified in England

Judas Iscariot: Suicide in shame

Matthias: stoned at Jerusalem by the Jews, and then beheaded

PRIESTHOOD ARE TO
Lay hold on Eternal
Life, whereunto thou
art also called

Fight the good fight of faith,
lay hold on Eternal Life,
whereunto thou art also
called, and hast professed a
good profession before many
witnesses. I give thee charge in
the site of God, who
quickeneth all things, and
before Christ Jesus, who
before Pontius Pilate
witnessed a good confession;
that thou keep this
commandment without spot
(1 Tim 6:12-14)



Priesthood are to function in POWER

The Power of the Holy Ghost is received by Faith on Christ

- And it came to pass after I, Nephi, having heard all the words of my father concerning the things which he saw in a vision; And also the things which he spake by **the power of the Holy Ghost; which power he received by faith** on the Son of God; (1 Nephi 3:23-24)
- And he (Abinadi) spake with power and authority from God; and he continued his words, saying, Ye see that ye have not power to slay me, therefore I finish my message. (Mosiah 7:107)
- **Behold, thou art Nephi, and I am God**. Behold, I declare it unto thee in the presence of mine angels, that ye shall have power over this people, and shall smite the earth with famine, and with pestilence, and destruction, according to the wickedness of this people. Behold, I give unto you power, that whatsoever ye shall seal on earth, shall be sealed in heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven; and thus shall ye have power among this people. (Helaman 3:118-120)

PRIESTHOOD MUST BE CALLED AS WAS AARON

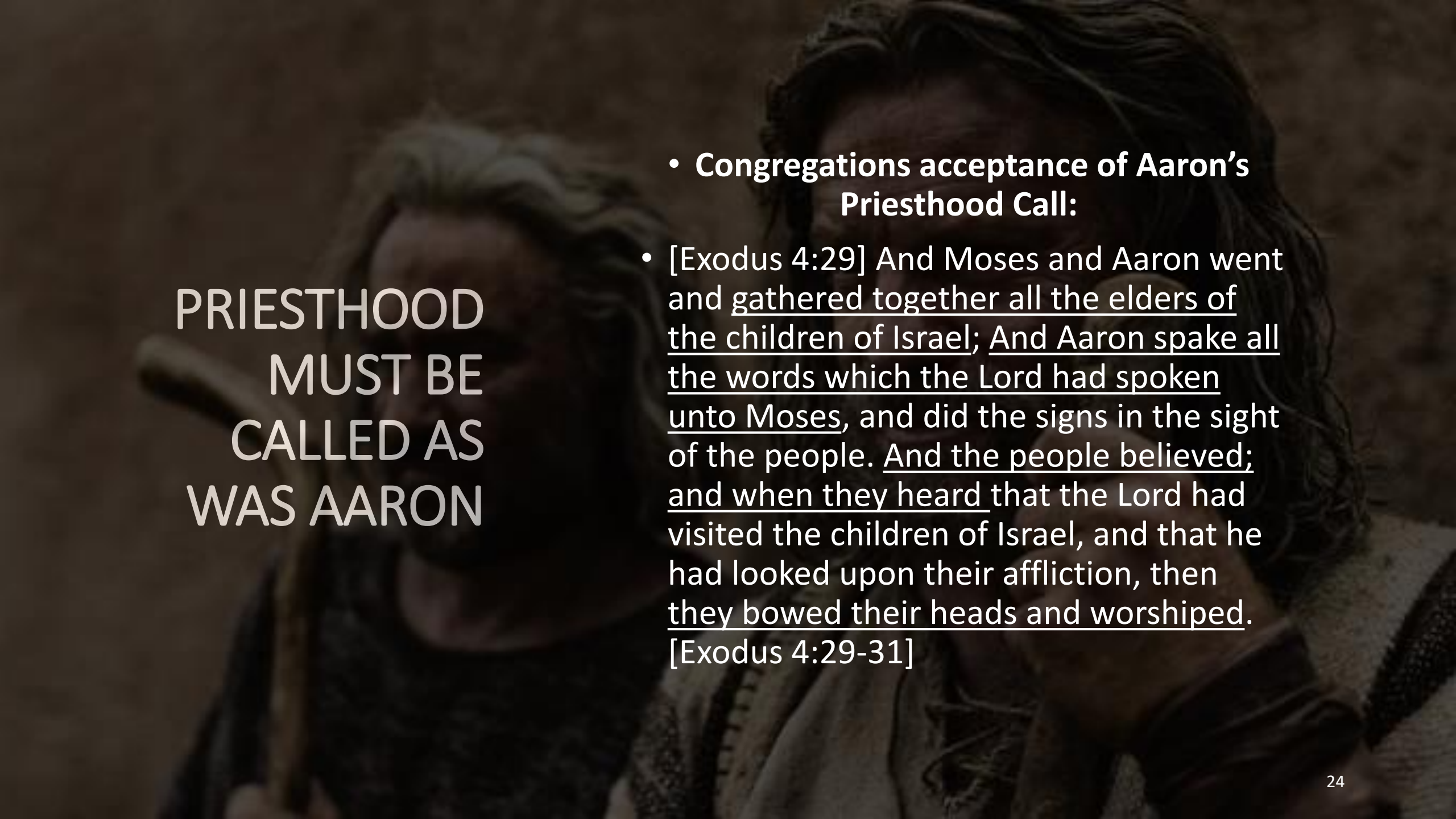
And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron (Heb 5:4)

Aaron's Calling

- And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee; and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart. And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth; and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do. ([Exodus 4:14-15])

Aaron's Testimony

- And the Lord said unto Aaron, Go into the wilderness to meet Moses, and he went and met him, in the mount of God; in the mount where God appeared unto him; and Aaron kissed him. And Moses told Aaron all the words of the Lord who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. [Exodus 4:27]



PRIESTHOOD MUST BE CALLED AS WAS AARON

- **Congregations acceptance of Aaron's Priesthood Call:**
- [Exodus 4:29] And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel; And Aaron spake all the words which the Lord had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people. And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshiped. [Exodus 4:29-31]



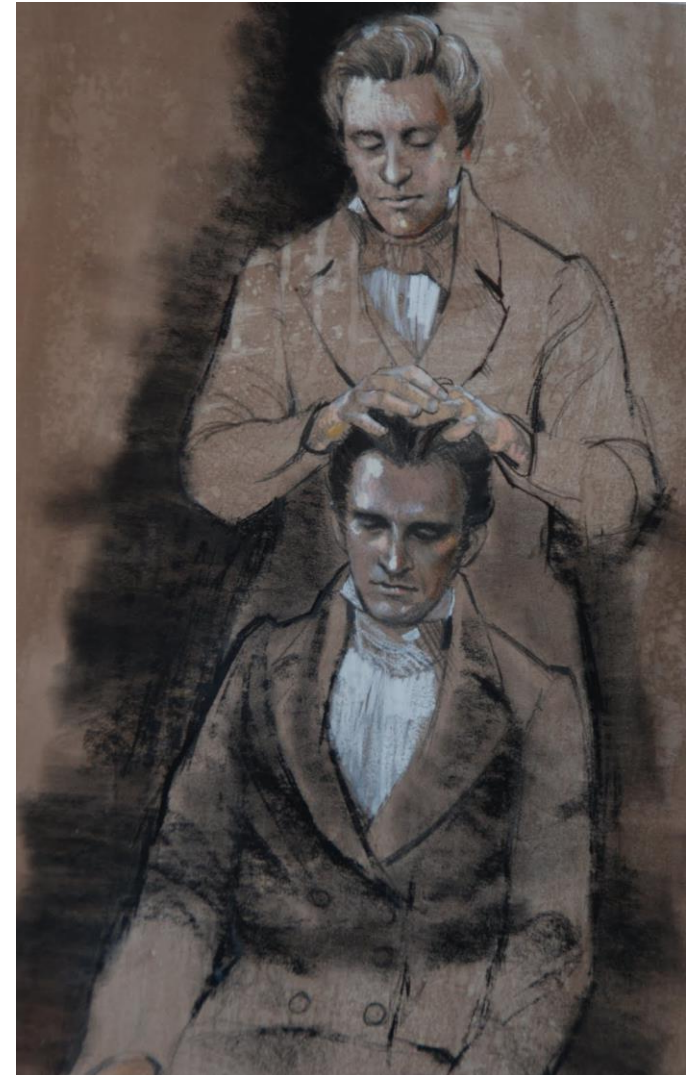
PRIESTHOOD TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE CHURCH PEOPLE

- LET'S CONSIDER Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery's Calls
- **Aaronic Order** – There was not an organized group, similar to the direction given to the traveling ministry in unorganized areas
- John the Baptist was correct in that he ordained by instructions of Peter, James, and John in an unorganized area.

PRIESTHOOD TO BE ACCEPTED BY THE CHURCH PEOPLE

- **Melchisedec Order** – They both were given authority by Peter, James, and John to ordain each other – BUT – they were to first organize the church and obtain their acceptance. They did so and they ordained each other at the organization meeting on April 6, 1830

The Lord continued to preserve the Agency of the people of the flock



ALL PRIESTHOOD SHOULD HAVE A PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF THE DEVINE NATURE OF THEIR CALL

And he said unto them, Your heavenly Father will not fail to give unto you whatsoever ye ask of him. And he spake a parable, saying,

Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves; For a friend of mine has come to me in his journey, and I have nothing to set before him; And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity, he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one who asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened. (Luke 11:5-14 Continued)

ALL PRIESTHOOD SHOULD HAVE A PERSONAL TESTIMONY OF THE DEVINE NATURE OF THEIR CALL

If a son shall ask bread of any of you who is a father, will he give him a stone? or, if a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give good gifts, through the Holy Spirit, to them who ask him.(Luke 11:5-14)

PRIESTHOOD HAS THIS COVENANT CONFIRMED WITHIN THEM FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high; [Sec 83:1a]

and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father; and the Father teacheth him of the covenant which he has renewed and confirmed upon you, which is confirmed upon you for your sakes, and not for your sakes only, but for the sake of the whole world: and the whole world lieth in sin, and groaneth under the darkness and under the bondage of sin: and by this you may know they are under the bondage of sin, because they come not unto me; for whoso cometh not unto me is under the bondage of sin; and whoso receiveth not my voice is not acquainted with my voice, and is not of me; and by this you may know the righteous from the wicked, and that the whole world groaneth under sin and darkness even now. [Sec 83:7d-7l]

IF WE ARE INADEQUATE, THEN ZION REMAINS UNDER CONDEMNATION AND A SCOURAGE WILL BE UPON HER

A revelation of Jesus Christ unto his servant Joseph Smith, Jr., and six elders, as they united their hearts and lifted their voices on high; [Sec 83:1a]

And **YOUR** minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation. And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land? Verily, I say unto you, Nay. [Sec 83:8a-8c]

THE PASTORS OF EPHEBUS WAS TOLD THROUGH APOSTLE JOHN THAT THE LORD HAD SOMEWHAT AGAINST THEM

Unto the servant of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars; And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast labored, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou are fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. [Revelation 2:1-5]

THERE ARE CONDITIONS PLACED UPON PRIESTHOOD

No Power is inherent in
priesthood save it be
exercised...by persuasion, by
longsuffering, by meekness,
without hypocrisy, without guile,
show an increase in love, with a
soul full of charity towards all men
and when virtue guards the
thoughts unceasingly. (Joseph Smith, Times
and Seasons, Vol 1, Pages 131-132)



PRIESTHOOD ARE NOT AFFORDED THE PRIVILEGE OF LOOKING BACK OR FEELING SORRY FOR THEMSELVES

And your minds in times past have been darkened because of unbelief, and because you have treated lightly the things you have received, **which vanity and unbelief hath brought the whole church under condemnation.**
And this condemnation resteth upon the children of Zion, even all; and they shall remain under this condemnation until they repent and remember the new covenant, even the Book of Mormon and the former commandments which I have given them, not only to say, but to do according to that which I have written, that they may bring forth fruit meet for their Father's kingdom, otherwise there remaineth a scourge and a judgment to be poured out upon the children of Zion; for, shall the children of the kingdom pollute my holy land?
Verily, I say unto you, Nay. [Sec 83:8a-8C]

PRIESTHOOD ARE CALLED TO A NEVER ENDING CALLING – NO VACATIONS

- And ye are sent unto them to be their ministers, and the laborer is worthy of his hire; for the law saith, That a man shall not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. Therefore seek ye to bring forth the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added unto you.[Luke 12:33-34]
- Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. This he spake unto his disciples, saying, Sell that ye have and give alms; provide not for yourselves bags which wax old, but rather provide a treasure in the heavens, that faileth not; where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.
[Luke 12:35-37]



PRIESTHOOD ARE CALLED TO A NEVER ENDING CALLING – NO VACATIONS

- Verily I say unto you, Blessed are those servants, whom the Lord when he cometh shall find watching; for he shall gird himself, and make them sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them..[Luke 12:40]
- And now, verily I say these things unto you, that ye may know this, that the coming of the Lord is as a thief in the night.[Luke 12:44]
- Then Peter said unto him, Lord, speaketh thou this parable unto us, or unto all? And the Lord said, I speak unto those whom **the Lord shall make rulers over his household**, to give his children their portion of meat in due season. [Luke 12:48-49]

HEAVEN HELP THE PRIESTHOOD MEMBER THAT NEGLECTS HIS CALL

But the evil servant is he who is not found watching. And if that servant is not found watching, he will say in his heart, My Lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants, and the maidens, and to eat, and drink, and to be drunken. The Lord of that servant will come in a day he looketh not for, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him down, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. And that servant who knew his Lord's will, and prepared not for his Lord's coming, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not his Lord's will, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom the Lord has committed much, of him will men ask the more. [Luke 12:54-57]

Priesthood are granted authority to represent Jesus and perform their service anticipating the blessings of GOD

and the sons of Moses and of Aaron shall be filled with the glory of the Lord upon Mount Zion in the Lord's house, whose sons are ye; and also many whom I have called and sent forth to build up my church; for whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies: they become the sons of Moses and of Aaron, and the seed of Abraham, and the church and kingdom and the elect of God; and also all they who receive this priesthood receiveth me, saith the Lord, for he that receiveth my servants receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth my Father, and he that receiveth my Father receiveth my Father's kingdom. Therefore, all that my Father hath shall be given unto him; and this is according to the oath and covenant which belongeth to the priesthood. [Sec 83:6a-6f]

Priesthood are granted authority to represent Jesus and perform their service anticipating the blessings of GOD, ARE GRANTED AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT JESUS, PERFORM OUR SERVICE ANTICIPATING GOD'S BLESSINGS



The responsibility for Priesthood to learn their duty is theirs ALONE

Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence. He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved, shall not be counted worthy to stand. Even so. Amen.[Sec 104:44a-44b]



Priesthood are called to serve without regard as to what the Lord is doing with another of his Friends or another part of HIS vineyard

Their only concern is what their Lord has asked of them, not any other:

Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper, and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee?

Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do?

Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? FOLLOW THOU ME.

[John 21:20-22]

Priesthood are to meet certain levels of righteousness through their service

- Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou hast done; for I have beheld how thou hast with unwearyingness declared the word which I have given unto thee, unto this people.

And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine own life, but have sought my will, and to keep my commandments.

And now because thou hast done this with such unwearyingness, **behold, I will bless thee for ever**; and I will make thee mighty in word and in deed, in faith and in works; [Helaman 3:115-117]

- Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood receive this oath and covenant of my Father, which he cannot break, neither can it be moved; but whoso breaketh this covenant, after he hath received it, and altogether turneth therefrom, shall not have forgiveness of sins in this world nor in the world to come. (sec 83: 6g-6h)

Priesthood are to give an account of their stewardship (specifically of their Priesthood service)

- It is my will that ye more fully honor and pay heed to the voice and counsel of the traveling ministry in spiritual things; which **if ye do not, the office which they hold is not honored in my service**, and the good they should do is made void. **If they approve themselves as righteous ministers, they shall be blessed; if they be found transgressors, or idle servants, ye shall not uphold them.** But be not hasty in withdrawing **your support from them, peradventure ye shall injure my work.** Even now I am not well pleased with some, but space is granted for **repentance and a renewal of diligence.** Let no one deceive himself that **he shall not account for his stewardship unto me.**[Sec 118:3-4c]

Priesthood are to give an account of their stewardship (specifically of their Priesthood service)

And verily in this thing ye have done wisely, for it is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, **both in time and in eternity.** For he who is faithful and wise in time is accounted worthy to inherit the mansions prepared for them of my Father. Verily I say unto you, **The elders of the church in this part of my vineyard shall render an account of their stewardship unto the bishop** which shall be appointed of me in this part of my vineyard [Sec 72:1c-1e]

—“WHEN ALL IS SAID AND DONE,
WHAT WILL MATTER
TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER
WILL BE HOW WELL
WE HAVE KEPT OUR COVENANTS
AND HOW MUCH WE HAVE TRIED
TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF OUR
—SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST.”—

Priesthood are to give an account of their stewardship (specifically of their Priesthood service)

The word of the Lord, in addition to the law which has been given, making known the duty of the bishop which has been ordained unto the church in this part of the vineyard, which is verily this:

to keep the Lord's storehouse; to receive the funds of the church in this part of the vineyard; to **take an account of the elders**, as before has been commanded; and to administer to their wants, who shall pay for that which they receive, inasmuch as they have wherewith to pay, that this also may be consecrated to the good of the church, to the poor and needy

[Sec 72:3a-3b]

Priesthood are to give an account of their stewardship (specifically of their Priesthood service)

...And now, verily I say unto you, That as every elder in this part of the vineyard must give an account of his stewardship unto the bishop in this part of the vineyard, a certificate from the judge or bishop in this part of the vineyard, unto the bishop in Zion, rendereth every man acceptable, and answereth all things, for an inheritance, and to be received as a wise steward and as a faithful laborer; otherwise he shall not be accepted of the bishop in Zion. And now, verily I say unto you, Let every elder who shall give an account unto the bishop of the church, in this part of the vineyard, be recommended by the church, or churches, in which he labors, that he may render himself and his accounts approved in all things.

[Sec 72:4a-4b]

Priesthood are to perform their services THROUGH the Power of the Holy Ghost

They are to ordain according to the power of the Spirit within them

- And, behold, you are they who are ordained of me to ordain priests and teachers to declare my gospel, according to the power of the Holy Ghost which is in you, and according to the callings and gifts of God unto men; and I, Jesus Christ, your Lord and your God, have spoken it. [Sec 16:5e]

Priesthood given power to give the Holy Ghost

- The words of Christ, which he spake unto his disciples, the twelve whom he had chosen, as he laid his hands upon them. And he called them by name, saying, Ye shall call on the Father in my name, in mighty prayer; and after ye have done this, ye shall have power that on him whom ye shall lay your hands, ye shall give the Holy Ghost; and in my name shall ye give it, for thus do mine apostles.. (Moroni 2:1-2)

Priesthood are to perform their services THROUGH the Power of the Holy Ghost

Ammon said: “Of himself he is nothing. In God’s strength he can do all things.

- Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength, I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God; for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name for ever.[Alma 14:92)

Power granted through the Holy Ghost by the WILL of the Father

- Verily I say unto you, that ye are chosen out of the world to declare my gospel with the sound of rejoicing, as with the voice of a trump; lift up your hearts and be glad, for I am in your midst, and am your advocate with the Father; and **it is his good will to give you the kingdom;** (Sec 28:2a-2b)

MOOREHEAD

THERE IS

A WAY OUT



When we sin, we paint ourselves into a corner.
Repentance is the only way out.
(See Doctrine and Covenants 58:42.)

Priesthood are to BEWARE OF PRIDE!!!!

- Be Careful brethren, as soon as we think that we have it figured out ----WE FALL
- Now, all these things happened unto them for ensamples; and they were written for our admonition also, and for an admonition for those upon whom the end of the world shall come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
[1 Corinthians 10:11-13]

What is the central single purpose for the Priesthood? FEED MY SHEEP!

TO GIVE ONES LIFE TO DO SO IF NECESSARY.

- So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus said unto him, Feed my sheep. (John 21:15-17)

What is the central single purpose for the Priesthood? FEED MY SHEEP!

- **TO PRESIDE AND WATCH OVER THE CHURCH.**

- And now it came to pass that after Alma had made an end of speaking unto the people of the church, which was established in the city of Zarahemla, he ordained priests and elders, by laying on his hands according to the order of God, to preside and watch over the church.

(Alma 4:1)



What is the central single purpose for the Priesthood? FEED MY SHEEP!

TO BE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE IN THEIR MINISTRY, SO AS TO MULTIPLY THE FLOCK.

- For it is like as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway went on his journey. Then he that had received the five talents, went and traded with the same; and gained other five talents. And likewise he who received two talents, he also gained other two. But he who had received one, went and digged in the earth and hid his lord's money. (Matthew 25:14-18 Continued)

What is the central single purpose for the Priesthood? FEED MY SHEEP! (Continued)

TO BE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE IN THEIR MINISTRY, SO AS TO MULTIPLY THE FLOCK.

- After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received the five talents came, and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents; behold, I have gained besides them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents; behold, I have gained two talents besides them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he who had received the one talent came, and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not scattered. And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth; and lo, here is thy talent; take it from me as thou hast from thine other servants, for it is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, O wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not scattered. (Matthew 25:19-26 Continued)

What is the central single purpose for the Priesthood?
FEED MY SHEEP!

• **And his lord shall say unto his servants, Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.** (Matthew 25:31)



What is the central single purpose for the Priesthood? FEED MY SHEEP!

TO PERFORM ALL THAT THEY DO IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST; FOLLOWING HIS EXAMPLE

- **And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him..** (Colossians 3:17)
- And I give unto you a commandment, that ye shall observe to **do the things which ye have seen me do, and bear record of me even unto the end.** (Matthew 26:25)

THE LORD, JESUS CHRIST, HAS SPECIFICALLY PRAYED FOR THOSE WHO GOD HAS GIVEN HIM

- And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold Satan hath desired you, that he may sift the children of the kingdom as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith fail not; and when you are converted strengthen your brethren.
(Luke 22:31-32)
- And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world; thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee. For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. **Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.** (John 17:5-11)

IN THE END OF IT ALL;
ALL SERVICE IS A MATTER OF
“LOVE”

But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another; [Mosiah 2:27]

Brother Arthur Oakman stated in one of his sermons:

“He can’t learn to fear Hell until he first learns to LOVE God”

