

Two Great Divisions

Importance of the two Priesthoods working together

“And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation; and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the **glory of the Lord appeared**. And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation. And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, **GET YOU UP FROM AMONG THIS CONGREGATION, THAT I MAY CONSUME THEM AS IN A MOMENT.** And they fell upon their faces. And **Moses said unto Aaron**, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly into the congregation, and make atonement for them; for there is wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague is begun. And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people; and he put on incense, and made atonement for the people. And he stood between the dead and the living; **and the plague was stayed**. Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, besides them that died about the matter of Korah. And Aaron returned unto Moses unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation; and the plague was stayed.”

[Num 16:42-50]

NOTE: The importance/power AND COURAGE required of the Melchisedec Priesthood when righteous.

NOTE: The importance/power AND COURAGE required of the Aaronic Priesthood when righteous.

Note: The relationship of the two priesthoods.

The differences were best described by the Lord in the following Scripture:

[Sec 104:9a-9b] The power and authority of the higher, or Melchisedec, priesthood, is to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church; to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven; to have the heavens opened unto them; to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn; and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant.

[Sec 104:10] The power and authority of the lesser, or Aaronic, priesthood is, to hold the keys of the ministering of angels, and to administer in outward ordinances--the letter of the gospel--the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, agreeably to the covenants and commandments.

Further described well by Apostle Paul in Hebrews 7

There are in the Church Two Grand Heads or Orders of Priesthood, namely: the Melchisedec and the Aaronic – (We will avoid discussing the Levitical Priesthood due to the lack of time and simply include it in the Aaronic for this discussion)

[Sec 104:1a] There are, in the church, two priesthoods; namely: the Melchisedec, and the Aaronic, including the Levitical priesthood.

Melchisedec Priesthood

Named Melchisedec because:

[Sec 104:1b-1c] Why the first is called the Melchisedec priesthood, is because Melchisedec was such a great high priest: before his day it was called the holy priesthood, after the order of the Son of God; but out of respect or reverence to the name of the Supreme Being, to avoid the too frequent repetition of his name, they, the church, in ancient days, called that priesthood after Melchisedec, or the Melchisedec priesthood.

Also known as the High Priesthood or Greater Priesthood

Sec 104:31-37; Sec 83:3

The Elder comes under the Greater Priesthood

[Sec 104:3a] The office of an elder comes under the priesthood of Melchisedec

Aaronic Priesthood is an appendage to the Greater Priesthood - Named after Aaron

[Sec 104:8a-8b] The second priesthood is called the priesthood of Aaron, because it was conferred upon Aaron and his seed, throughout all their generations. Why it is called the lesser priesthood is, because it is an appendage to the greater, or the Melchisedec priesthood, and has power in administering outward ordinances.

Both of these Priesthoods are POWERFUL when exercised in righteousness – AND – are necessary to make the Lord's work among men efficient and effective!!!!!!!

Let's First discuss the power of the Aaronic Order by example:

[Sec 83:4a-4f] 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; 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 fullness of his glory. Therefore, he took Moses out of their midst and the holy priesthood also; and the lesser priesthood continued, **which priesthood holdeth the key of the ministering of angels and the preparatory gospel, which gospel is the gospel of repentance and of baptism, and the remission of sins, and the law of carnal commandments**, which the Lord, in his wrath, caused to continue with the house of Aaron, among the children of Israel until John, whom God raised up, being filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb: for he was baptized while he was yet in his childhood, and was ordained by the angel of God at the time he was eight days old unto this power: to overthrow the kingdom of the Jews, and to make straight the way of the Lord before the face of his people; to prepare them for the coming of the Lord, in whose hand is given all power.

[Sec 104:10] The power and authority of the lesser, or Aaronic, priesthood is, to hold the keys of the ministering of angels, and to administer in outward ordinances--the letter of the gospel--the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, agreeably to the covenants and commandments.

AARONIC PRIESTHOOD ARE STANDING MINISTER AMONG THE FLOCK

[Sec 83:22] And, behold, the high priests should travel, and also the elders, and also the lesser priests; but the deacons and teachers should be appointed to watch over the church, to be standing ministers unto the church.

(Sec 83 [Revelation to the Priesthood] was given to six Elders and includes how to use Priest that are being taken to the field)

[Sec 83:20a] Therefore, take with you those who are ordained unto the lesser priesthood, and send them before you to make appointments, and to prepare the way, and to fill appointments that you yourselves are not able to fill.

[Sec 83:20b] Behold, this is the way that mine apostles, in ancient days, built up my church unto me.

The Aaronic order was left in FULL CHARGE of the Lord's work on the earth from Moses to Christ

How did the Lord maintain SPIRITUAL MINISTRY among his people with only the Aaronic Priesthood from Moses to Christ?

Ministry of Angels

Authority awarded to his Priesthood

STEPHEN

- Full of Power, Faith, **Holy Ghost** **POWER BY WHICH HE SERVED**
- Did Wonders and Miracles **NOTE THE POWER – OUTWARD ORDINANCES**
- He was learned (He knew his scriptures) **HIS AMMUNITION**
- Confounded the Jewish Elders & Scribes **SERVED FEARLESSLY**
- They gnashed on him with their teeth **SUFFERED SAVEER PERSECUTION**
- When he was being execute: **(He didn't have to question what he would do)**
 - Filled with Holy Ghost
 - Saw God & Christ on his Right Hand
 - He Knelt down
 - Plead for his executioners Acts 7:8-60

Testimonies:

Young Deacon and Brother Herning at deadly car wreck near Atherton

Glenn Parker's Death

Old Brother Cornish at Buckner and others came long after their deaths to prepare Glen for his death

Four young Deacons at Atherton controlled a severe rain storm at a Baptism

Truthfully, today, we know more about the Aaronic order than we do about the Melchisdec order because we in this generation have not had a true role model in the latter order to emulate.

The World Church began shutting down and silencing men who exercised the Spirit & the gifts of the higher order beginning in the late 1950's & 1960's – and good men gave up! – The strong ones simply died off!

Now Let's Discuss the Melchezidec Order:

I have to go back a couple of generations for me TO RECALL those who testify of communing with God and Christ and experiencing the resulting power

Elbert A Smith

Many experiences of Arthur Oakman

Old Seventy Brother May who discussed ministry with the Lord in the South Sea Islands in the 1940s and 1950

*These were Special Witnesses that saw Christ and served accordingly. In my childhood a Special Witness of Jesus Christ had met him personally.

We have to remember that the Apostles that Jesus chose were fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, and the like

Matthew left all and straightway followed him

Maybe there is hope for **WE** of the Melchezidec Priesthood when Christ truly touches us!

The Holy Ghost (aka. The Comforter) is described as:

[Gen 6:64] Therefore it is given to abide in you, the record of heaven, the Comforter, the peaceable things of immortal glory, the truth of all things, that which quickeneth all things which maketh alive all things, that which knoweth all things, and hath all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice and judgment.

A difference between the two priesthoods is that

The Aaronic Priesthood is to perform all that they do by the POWER of the Holy Ghost

[Sec 17:12a] Every elder, priest, teacher, or deacon, is to be ordained according to the gifts and callings of God unto him;

[Sec 17:12b] and he is to be ordained by the power of the Holy Ghost which is in the one who ordains him.

Melchisedec is to GIVE the Holy Ghost

[Mor 2:2] 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.

The Melchisedec are to Preside over and Judge the Church

Acts 14:19-23 And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up, and came into the city; and the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe. And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch, Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. **And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.**

Joseph Smith III wrote a detailed article in the True Latter Day Saint's Herald on this subject on August 15, 1871

I will include this article on the web site with this class if you want to review it

Acts 15:4-6 And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was needful to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses. And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter.

[Sec 42:22a-22e] And if any man or woman shall commit adultery, he or she shall be tried before two elders of the church or more, and every word shall be established against him or her by two witnesses of the church, and not of the enemy; but if there are more than two witnesses it is better; but he or she shall be condemned by the mouth of two witnesses, and the elders shall lay the case before the church, and the church shall lift up their hands against him or her, that they may be dealt with according to the law of God. And if it can be, it is necessary that the bishop is present also. And thus ye shall do in all cases which shall come before you.

This is also discussed in the experience of Elder White in 1885 that has been so widely circulated in the church for the last 100 years. You may know it as the experience concerning the Spiritual rings around Zion.

I will include this article on the web site with this class if you want to review it

ALL ADMINISTRATION (Presiding) IS TO BE PREFORMED BY THE SPIRIT AND NOT BY BEING OVERLORDS

[1 Pet 5:1-6] **The elders which are among you** I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings 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 lords 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. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one 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 exalt you in due time.

Nephi, Helaman's son had managed to turn a wicked nation of Nephites around into repentance and prosperity – and – in just a few years they had reverted back into their evil way.

Hel 4:48 And thus we can behold how false, and also the unsteadiness of the hearts of the children of men; yea, we can see that the Lord in his great infinite goodness, doth bless and prosper those who put their trust in him; yea, we can see that the Lord in his great infinite goodness, doth bless and prosper those who put their trust in him;

Hel 4:49 Yea, and we may see at the very time when he doth prosper his people; yea, in the increase of their fields, their flocks, and their herds, and in gold, and in silver, and in all manner of precious things of every kind, and art;

Hel 4:50 Sparing their lives, and delivering them out of the hands of their enemies; softening the hearts of their enemies, that they should not declare wars against them; yea, and in fine, doing all things for the welfare and happiness of his people;

Hel 4:51 Yea, then is the time that they do harden their hearts, and do forget the Lord their God, and do trample under their feet the Holy One; yea, and this because of their ease, and their exceeding great prosperity.

Hel 4:52 And thus we see, that except the Lord doth chasten his people with many afflictions, yea, except he doth visit them with death, and with terror, and with famine, and with all manner of pestilences, they will not remember him.

Hel 4:53 O how foolish, and how vain, and how evil, and devilish, and how quick to do iniquity, and how slow to do good, are the children of men;

Hel 4:54 Yea, how quick to hearken unto the words of the evil one, and to set their hearts upon the vain things of the world; yea, how quick to be lifted up in pride; yea, how quick to boast, and do all manner of that which is iniquity;

Hel 4:55 And how slow are they to remember the Lord their God, and to give ear unto his counsels; yea, how slow to walk in wisdom's paths!

Hel 4:56 Behold, they do not desire that the Lord their God, who hath created them, should rule and reign over them; notwithstanding his great goodness and his mercy towards them; they do set at naught his counsels, and they will not that he should be their guide.

[Hel 4:57] **O how great is the nothingness of the children of men; yea, even they are less than the dust of the earth.**

[Hel 4:58] For behold, **the dust of the earth moveth hither and thither, to the dividing asunder, at the command of our great and everlasting God;**

Hel 4:59 Yea, behold, at his voice doth the hills and the mountains tremble and quake; and by the power of his voice they are broken up, and become smooth, yea, even like unto a valley;

Hel 4:60 Yea, by the power of his voice doth the whole earth shake; yea, by the power of his voice, doth the foundations rock, even to the very center;

Hel 4:61 Yea, and if he say unto the earth, Move, it is moved; yea, if he say unto the earth, Thou shalt go back, that it lengthen out the day for many hours, it is done:

Hel 4:62 And thus according to his word, the earth goeth back, and it appeareth unto man that the sun standeth still: yea, and behold, this is so; for sure it is the earth that moveth, and not the sun.

Hel 4:63 And behold, also, if he say unto the waters of the great deep, Be thou dried up, it is done.

Hel 4:64 Behold, if he say unto this mountain, Be thou raised up, and come over and fall upon that city, that it be buried up, behold it is done.

Hel 4:65 And behold, if a man hide up a treasure in the earth, and the Lord shall say, Let it be accursed, because of the iniquity of him who hath hid it up, behold, it shall be accursed;

Hel 4:66 And if the Lord shall say, Be thou accursed, that no man shall find thee from this time henceforth and for ever, behold, no man getteth it henceforth and for ever.

Hel 4:67 And behold, if the Lord shall say unto a man, Because of thine iniquities thou shalt be accursed for ever, it shall be done.

[Hel 4:68] **And if the Lord shall say, Because of thine iniquities, thou shalt be cut off from my presence, he will cause that it shall be so.**

[Hel 4:69] And wo unto him to whom he shall say this, for it shall be unto him that will do iniquity, and he can not be saved; **therefore, for this cause, that men might be saved, hath repentance been declared.**

[Hel 4:70] **Therefore blessed are they who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; for these are they that shall be saved.**

[Hel 4:71] **And may God grant, in his great fullness, that men might be brought unto repentance and good works, that they might be restored unto grace, for grace according to their works.**

[Hel 4:72] **And I would that all men might be saved. But we read that in that great and last day, there are some who shall be cast out; yea, who shall be cast off from the presence of the Lord;**

[Hel 4:73] **Yea, who shall be consigned to a state of endless misery, fulfilling the words which say, They that have done good, shall have everlasting life; and they that have done evil, shall have everlasting damnation. And thus it is.**

Amen.

Brethren, It is for this cause that like Nephi of old, **YOU AND I WERE CALLED, SET APART, AND ORDAINED!**

Brother Joseph the Beloved wrote in his Article mentioned earlier of 1871 some very important words:

“ Few possess the character portrayed in this article, or come near to meeting the requirements specified; but all may approximate to them all by study, by carefulness and faithfulness, being diligent in the things entrusted to our care.

Let us cease to do evil and learn to do well.”

BRETHREN, THE LORD’S PLAN CALLS FOR THE TWO PRIESTHOODS TO WORK TOGETHER CAREFULLY AND BROTHERLY.

[Sec 83:21a] Therefore, let every man stand in his own office, and labor in his own calling; and let not the head say unto the feet it hath no need of the feet, for without the feet how shall the body be able to stand?

[Sec 83:21b] Also, the body hath need of every member, that all may be edified together, that the system may be kept perfect.

Brethren, I have been invited to teach a class to the PRIESTHOOD at which the flock have been invited to attend.

In that Spirit, I quote the words of Alma:

[Alma 5:38] And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you, that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him; that ye may walk after the holy order of God, after which ye have been received.

[Alma 5:39] And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive, and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times;

[Alma 5:40] Asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive,

[Alma 5:41] And see that ye have faith, hope, and charity, and then ye will always abound in good works;

[Alma 5:42] And may the Lord bless you, and keep your garments spotless, that ye may at last be brought to sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and the holy prophets who have been ever since the world began, having your garments spotless, even as their garments are spotless in the kingdom of heaven, to go no more out.