

# The priesthood

## Aaronic

## Melchizedek

"The second priesthood is called the Priesthood of Aaron, because it was conferred upon Aaron and his seed. . . . It is called the lesser priesthood . . . because it is an appendage to the greater, or the Melchizedek Priesthood, and has power in administering outward ordinances." (D&C 107:13-14.)

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 Melchizedek, or the Melchizedek Priesthood. (D&C 107:3-4)

Confer to a priesthood  
Ordain to an office  
Set apart for a calling

Priesthood-related selections  
in the D&C: 13, 20, 84, 107,  
121:34-46



### Definitions:

**Quorum** - an organized group of brethren who hold the same priesthood office. (True to the Faith pg. 125)

**Ordinance** - sacred act performed by the authority of the priesthood (True to the Faith pg. 109)

### Ordinances

1. Non-necessary
  - a. Blessing and naming of children
  - b. Administering to the sick
    - i. Consecrating oil
    - ii. Anointing with oil
    - iii. Sealing the anointing
  - c. Father's blessings or other blessings of comfort and counsel
  - d. Dedicating graves
2. Necessary
  - a. Baptism
  - b. Confirmation
  - c. Conferring to priesthood and ordaining to priesthood offices
  - d. Sacrament
  - e. Temple ordinances

Priesthood holders need no prior authorization to perform ordinances or blessings. . . . such as consecrating oil, administering to the sick, and giving father's blessings. Boyd K. Packer - Ensign, Feb 1993, pg. 7

### Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood:

For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods 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 receive 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. (D&C 84:33-39)

### Keys of the Priesthood

The exercise of priesthood authority in the Church is governed by those who hold priesthood keys (see D&C 65:2; 124:123). Those who hold priesthood keys have the right to preside over and direct the Church within a jurisdiction (True to the Faith pg. 126).

There is a difference between priesthood and the 'keys' of the priesthood. A priest in a ward has power sufficient to baptize, yet he has not the right to perform this ordinance until he has been authorized by the bishop. The bishop has the 'keys' to administer to the affairs belonging under his ecclesiastical jurisdiction. Therefore, he is the person who can tell a priest to baptize.

The president and prophet of the Church has the 'keys' of the priesthood to administer in all spiritual and temporal affairs of the Church. It is his right to delegate stake presidents, bishops, patriarchs and others, as holders of the 'keys' pertaining to specific offices in certain geographical areas.

President Joseph F. Smith taught on this subject:

Every man ordained to any degree of the priesthood has this authority delegated to him. But it is necessary that every act performed under this authority shall be done at the proper time and place, in the proper way, and after the proper order. The power of directing these labors constitutes the keys of the priesthood' (Gospel Doctrine, p. 136)" (Melvin R. Brooks, L.D.S. Reference Encyclopedia, p. 393). see Chapter 14: Priesthood Organization," Gospel Principles, 85