

THE

Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.—Jesus Christ.

Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.—A Voice from Heaven.

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Priesthood from Adam to Joseph.

In calling the attention of our readers to those important personages, who have received the Priesthood, we cannot do justice to the subject without tracing it from the beginning, and showing the power which the Priesthood has bestowed upon all who have been endowed with it.

What is a Prophet of God, a Seer, a Revelator? or who are such men as Noah, Moses, Abraham, Christ, the first Apostles, Joseph Smith, and the Apostles and Prophets of this last dispensation? What is their relative position to God our Father in heaven, and what is due to them from the different generations of men to whom they have been sent? These are questions which have always been of great importance to mankind, and to no portion of them more so than to the present generation. We do not profess the ability to answer these questions in full. To do so would require a complete knowledge of the plan of salvation in all its operations, from the time it was decided upon in the councils of heaven down to the winding up scene of the last days. This knowledge man has attained to only in a very limited degree.

The terms Prophet, Seer, and Revelator convey such vague and indefinite ideas to the minds of some, that we will endeavour to reflect a little light upon the sub-

ject, that the Saints may the better appreciate their own position, and that of those who are over them in the Priesthood. Then they can more plainly see the necessity of walking carefully in the path marked out for them as the only way of eternal life.

Some Prophets have been sent to urge the people to repentance, and declare the judgments or blessings which the Almighty has had in store for them, and to foretell future events as the Spirit of revelation has shown them to the vision of their minds. Others have been sent, not only to warn and prophesy, but endowed with all the power necessary to bring to pass the events which they predicted.

From the very limited account of the Priesthood contained in the Bible, we do not learn that there was ever a time when there was not a man upon the earth who held the keys of revelation and prophecy, from Adam down to the last of the early Apostles of Jesus Christ. Such men have performed important parts in the great plan of redemption, and have held the keys of eternal life to the generations of men in which they lived, and will continue forever to hold the important positions which they occupied, with a continual increase of power throughout eternity, unless the right to do so was forfeited by

some act of disobedience while they were on the earth.

All men who have been, are now, or in time to come will be, endowed with the powers of the holy Priesthood, have received it, or will receive it, in succession from their predecessors, and the works of one and all are necessary for each other's perfection. Were the minds of men unveiled, so that the powerful influences which those holding the Priesthood exert upon the destinies of the world could be clearly seen, the necessity of keeping their counsels, and working righteousness, would be forced upon the understandings of men, instead of their being left, as is now the case, to act upon their free agency to choose simply between right and wrong.

Priesthood is unlimited, being "without beginning of days or end of years." It includes all the great truths and principles of the Godhead. It circumscribes all the powers of the universe. Every principle which tends to exaltation, increase, and dominion belongs to it. It involves the principles on which all matter is organized throughout the dominions of the Almighty, and on which creations will continue to exist and increase forever.

When the Melchisedek Priesthood is bestowed upon man, it endows him with the power to learn practically those things which exalt the *Gods*, and which will fit him for their society. The greatest blessing pertaining to this Priesthood is the power of perpetuating eternal lives, and of an infinite increase in all the vast variety of organizations which are spread out in the created worlds around us. And thus, those who have received this power of progression have continued to succeed each other in one eternal round of increase, exaltation, and dominion.

The most perfect obedience to those who are before them, is rendered by all who receive these exalted blessings. When a new world is ushered into existence, teeming with its millions of animated beings, all the Gods rejoice in the addition to their glory, for the bonds of the Eternal Priesthood so perfectly blend their interests together, that selfishness is unknown, and perfect harmony reigns in all the vast accumulations of worlds. The path which leads to these exalted conditions is the one that Apostles and Prophets of former days walked in, and this Priesthood, which circumscribes all things, is

the same that was bestowed upon them, and with which Joseph, Brigham, and all the other Apostles and Prophets of this our day are endowed.

This great chain, or succession of Priesthood, has been extended from the celestial worlds down to man in his low estate, that he may also be exalted in like manner as those who have gone before him. The ordinances of the Priesthood have been taught to men in various periods of time, and have been as variously esteemed, profited by, or rejected. Some have perverted them and gone down to perdition, while others, through obedience, have received the keys of the resurrection, and entered into their glory.

The labours of those who are diligent in the callings of the Priesthood, continually increase, that their powers may develop by being properly exercised. Men will inherit the fruits of their labours, whether they be good or evil; therefore the wicked will be the authors of their own calamities, and the works of the righteous will be their greatest reward.

We will now show how this eternal Priesthood was handed down from the celestial kingdom to the inhabitants of this terrestrial world. The Mosaic account of the creation states that, after the earth had been prepared, "there was not a man to till the ground." This was not the only, nor perhaps the greatest, deficiency. There was no one to commence and carry out the order of the higher spheres. There was no one to partake of mortality, and propagate the race of the *Gods* in a descending scale, that their spiritual children might become beings of tabernacle, and receive all knowledge in a school of experience. It is evident that for this great purpose Adam and Eve were placed upon the earth, from the fact, that the first and most prominent command given them was to *increase and multiply*.

After Adam and Eve had partaken of the seeds of mortality, it appears from the Scriptures that the Gods held a council on the subject. We read in Gen. iii. 22—*"And THE LORD GOD said, Behold, the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil."*

From this we learn that Adam was not only in form like unto the *Gods*, as previously stated, but that this knowledge of good and evil was that which would exalt him among the *Gods*; and

then that his resemblance to the *Gods* might be complete, THE LORD GOD bestowed the right to exercise full power and dominion over the earth, and all its creations.

"And *God* said unto them, Be *fruitful*, and *multiply*, and replenish the earth, and *subdue* it: and have *dominion* over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air; and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth."—Gen. i. 28. If THE LORD GOD has ever withdrawn from Father Adam the authority here bestowed upon him, He has not seen fit to make it known to the world. While there is nothing to refute, the whole tenor of revelation substantiates, the supposition, that Adam has continued to bear rule over the earth, and control the destinies of his never-ending posterity. From the time he received his commission in the Garden of Eden, he has been labouring diligently to fulfil the instructions there given him by THE LORD GOD concerning his dominions, and to bring them under subjection to his will. This will be fully accomplished when every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that he is the God of the whole earth. Then will the words of the Prophet Brigham, when speaking of Adam, be fully realized—"He is our Father and our God, and the only God with whom we have to do." Having now observed how Adam the first man became a God, we inquire why may not millions of his children receive the same Godlike knowledge and power? The Apostles, Prophets, and Seers, who have lived on the earth since the days of Adam, have been a succession of intelligences, who by doing the will of the Father receive of His glory, and become the heirs of His increasing dominions.

God saw that among His numerous posterity of spirits there were some more noble than others, and therefore capable of assuming greater responsibilities, and performing more important parts in the great work of redemption. These He fore-ordained and set apart to the work designed for them, and at the time appointed they appeared on the earth through the lineage of the Priesthood. Having been ordained in the Spirit, and being heirs according to the flesh, they came forth prepared to enter upon the work designed, inherit the fruits thereof, and partake of the same glory and exaltation as the Father. First among these noble sons stands the Lord

Jesus Christ. The heir by birthright of his Father's kingdom, he has proved himself worthy of his high vocation, by nobly offering to become the sacrifice that was necessary for the redemption of his Father's family. Therefore on him the Father has bestowed the keys of salvation, and the powers of the resurrection, to unlock the gates of death. On him devolved the great crowning work of redemption, and the meridian of time was appointed for the sacrifice. This same Jesus was a man like unto other men, and attained his exaltation by suffering all things, that he might overcome them, and has ascended to power at the right hand of the Father.

Next to Jesus Christ in the scale of Godlike intelligences are his brethren—holy men who have faithfully performed the work assigned them in their Father's kingdom, and have received the fruits of their labours as an everlasting inheritance, and thereby become heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. These men move and act independent of all others, in their sphere, and are responsible to none but the Lord Jesus who sent them.

The Lord has seen fit, in these days, to raise the veil a little which obscures our vision, by revealing to us the position now occupied by some of those ancient worthies who lived on the earth previous to his coming. In a Revelation given to the Prophet Joseph, on Celestial Marriage, the Lord, speaking of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, says, "And because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltations, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones; and are not Angels, but are GODS." All who live on the earth, and faithfully work righteousness, as did those ancient fathers, will receive like blessings of power and dominion, for God is no respecter of persons, but judges all men righteously according to their works. Thus we have a succession of GODS from Adam down to Christ and his Apostles at least. All men being in the image of their father Adam, even as he is in the image of his father, and possessing a similar knowledge of good and evil, when they receive the keys and powers of the same Priesthood, and by their works attain to its blessings, they will, like Adam, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, bear rule and dominion over their own posterity, and have power to redeem,

purify, and exalt them, also, to like power and glory.

What was the position of the former-day Apostles and Prophets, when they were on the earth? This question was one of great importance to those to whom they were sent, and is so to us inasmuch as the past and the present are connected. Their position then was the same as that of the Apostles and Prophets of this day. These men have held, and still hold, the keys of salvation and restitution to the men of their day and generation, and it is only through their administration that the Priesthood has been again restored to the earth, and that man can now attain to eternal life. Righteous men have been sent to teach, guide, and govern mankind, according to the laws of this Priesthood, and all who will not follow their counsels must suffer the consequences of their disobedience.

The Lord commanded Noah to preach righteousness to the antediluvians, and the event proved that obedience to his counsels was the only way of salvation to them, for they were destroyed in the flesh, and their spirits were cast into prison until the day of their visitation. The Lord called Moses to be His agent in delivering Israel from bondage, and to teach them His laws and ordinances in the

wilderness, and the way to obtain salvation daily, in all their journeyings, and prepare to enjoy its blessings in their next estate. The Lord honoured His servant then, as He always will, for He would condescend to talk with none of all that mighty host except Moses. When the people would not listen to his counsels the Lord, in His displeasure, chastened them with afflictions until they repented and rendered obedience.

The position of Noah and Moses in their day, is, essentially, that of every Prophet and Revelator who has lived, or will live, on the earth. To reject their counsels is to reject the only way of salvation. Without such men to teach the laws and ordinances of eternal life, no man can attain to a celestial glory. The Jews and Gentiles, in the days of Jesus and the Apostles, by rejecting them, completely shut up the way of salvation to themselves and their children for many generations, not to be open again until they have paid in prison the penalty of their transgressions.

We will here leave this interesting subject for the present. We are fully aware that we have only touched on a few of its important points, and we shall endeavour to take up in the next number of the *Star* these same principles, as applicable to the Prophet Joseph Smith and his history.

(To be continued.)

The City of St. Louis.

ITS ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES IN REFERENCE TO BOTH SAINTS AND SINNERS.

This city has become much celebrated throughout the world among the Latter-day Saints. It has generally been regarded as a sink-hole of corruption and iniquity, and the first and last advice to those emigrating to this land has been, to beware of the apostate spirit that reigns unbridled in this city, which has not been given without good reasons.

It will be admitted that a front and back side may be shown of any picture, and that there is a light and dark side to every object and subject. We think it possible to paint the devil blacker than he is, and we have thought that even this city may have received too dark a shade. And inasmuch as we are now residents

of St. Louis, and measurably interested in its prosperity, and advantages, and character, we will briefly state our views on the subject, for the benefit of our readers in the eastern States and in the British Isles, and present, perchance, more interesting features than those generally disclosed to view.

St. Louis is a fine, large, and flourishing city, and has furnished employment to many hundreds and thousands of our brethren, who have here in a short time made a good outfit for the gathering places of the Saints. This city has been an asylum for our people from fifteen to twenty years. There are few public buildings of any consideration in this city