

plied with the divine law, by virtue of the keys which are held by the President of the Church.<sup>14</sup>

SEALING POWER EMBRACES LIVING AND DEAD. Elijah, the last of the prophets who held the keys of the sealing power in ancient Israel, came and bestowed that power, the power of sealing. Some members of the Church have been confused in thinking that Elijah came with the keys of baptism for the dead or of salvation for the dead. Elijah's keys were *greater* than that. They were the keys of *sealing*, and *those keys of sealing pertain to the living and embrace the dead who are willing to repent.*

I think sometimes we look at this work for the salvation of the dead rather narrowly. It is a wrong conception to think of the people for whom we are doing work in the temple of the Lord as being dead. We should think of them as *living*; and the living proxy but represents them in receiving the blessings which they should have received, and would have received *in this life*, had they been living in a gospel dispensation. Therefore, every dead person for whom work is done in the temple is considered to be living at the time the ordinance is given; and those keys and blessings, which are conferred upon the dead by proxy, are given to the living who represent the dead in ordinance work which pertains to the gospel of Jesus Christ in this mortal life.

So Elijah came, having the keys of sealing, and the power has been given unto us by which we may reach out after the dead. This sealing power embraces those who are *dead*, who are willing to *repent* and to receive the gospel, who died without that knowledge, just the same as it reaches out for those who *repent* who are *living*. That is the work of Elijah.<sup>15</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Conf. Rep., Apr., 1948, p. 135.

<sup>15</sup>Gen. & Hist. Mag., vol. 27, pp. 100-101.

## FULNESS OF THE PRIESTHOOD

HOW CHRIST GAINED FULNESS OF PRIESTHOOD. Joseph Smith said: "If a man get a fulness of the priesthood of God, he has to get it in the same way that Jesus Christ obtained it, and that was by keeping all the commandments and obeying all the ordinances of the house of the Lord."<sup>16</sup>

I hope we understand that. If we want to receive the fulness of the priesthood of God, then we must receive the fulness of the ordinances of the house of the Lord and keep his commandments.<sup>17</sup> This idea that we can put off our salvation because of some weaknesses of the flesh until the end, and then our children will go and do this work for us in the temple of the Lord when we are dead, will get us nowhere. Salvation for the dead is for those who died without a knowledge of the gospel so far as celestial glory is concerned. And those who have rejected the truth and who have fought the truth, who would not have it, are not destined to receive celestial glory. Now, the Lord says this—it is not my saying, I am glad to say, although I fully believe it.<sup>18</sup>

FULNESS OF PRIESTHOOD NOT DEPENDENT ON OFFICE HELD. Let me put this in a little different way. I do not care what office you hold in this Church—you may be an apostle, you may be a patriarch, a high priest, or anything else—you cannot receive the fulness of the priesthood unless you go into the temple of the Lord and receive these ordinances of which the Prophet speaks. No man can get the fulness of the priesthood outside of the temple of the Lord. There was a time when that could be done, for the Lord could give these things on the mountain tops—no doubt that is where Moses got it, that is no doubt where Elijah got it—and the Lord said that in the days of poverty, when there was no house prepared

<sup>16</sup>Smith, op. cit., p. 107.

<sup>16</sup>Smith, op. cit., p. 308.

<sup>17</sup>D. & C. 124:28-42.

in which to receive these things, that they can be received on the mountain tops.

But now we have temples, and you cannot get these blessings on the mountain tops; you will have to go into the house of the Lord, and you cannot get the fulness of the priesthood unless you go there. Do not think because somebody has a higher office in this Church than you have that you are barred from blessings, because you can go into the temple of the Lord and get *all* the blessings there are that have been revealed, if you are faithful; you can have them sealed upon you as an *elder* in this Church, and then you have *all* that any man can get. There have to be offices in the Church, and we are not all called to the same calling, but you can get the fulness of the priesthood in the temple of the Lord by obeying this which I have read to you. I want to make this emphatic.<sup>19</sup>

**FULNESS OF PRIESTHOOD REQUIRED FOR EXALTATION.** There is no exaltation in the kingdom of God without the fulness of priesthood. How could a man be an *heir* in that kingdom without priesthood? While the sisters do not hold the priesthood, they share in the fulness of its blessings in the celestial kingdom with their husbands. These blessings are obtained through obedience to the ordinances and covenants of the house of the Lord. . . .

To obtain the fulness of the priesthood does not mean that a man must become President of the Church. Every man who is faithful and will receive these ordinances and blessings obtains a fulness of the priesthood, and the Lord has said that "he makes them equal in power, and in might, and in dominion."<sup>20</sup> Only one man at a time on the earth holds the *keys* of the priesthood; only one man at a time has the power to receive revelations for the Church; but the Lord has made it possible for

<sup>19</sup>*Elijah the Prophet and His Mission*, pp. 28-29.

<sup>20</sup>*D. & C.* 76:95; 88:107.

every man in this Church, through his obedience, to receive the fulness of the priesthood through the ordinances of the temple of the Lord. This cannot be received anywhere else.<sup>21</sup>

**FULNESS OF PRIESTHOOD FOR LIVING AND DEAD.**  
Only in the temple of the Lord can the fulness of the priesthood be received. Now that temples are on the earth, there is no other place where the endowment and the sealing powers for all eternity can be given. No man can receive the *keys of exaltation* in any other place.

Joseph Smith has said that, "the saints have not too much time to save and redeem their dead, and gather together their living relatives, that they may be saved also, before the earth will be smitten, and the consumption decreed falls upon the world."<sup>22</sup> When that day comes, those who have *professed* to believe in the latter-day work, and who have *rejected* the doctrine of temple building and the ceremonial endowments therein, will find themselves shut out of the kingdom of God. This subject occupied the mind of the Prophet Joseph Smith for several years before his death, for the Lord revealed to him all things pertaining to the work in the temples, and he revealed them unto others that the work might go on.

In the temples the saints are performing the ordinances which will insure, through faithfulness, the fulness of the blessings of the kingdom of God. During the past century the Church has been true to this calling, and the prospect for the future is good. This work will go on through the millennium, until redemption shall come to all who are worthy to receive it. In the words of the Prophet: "Let the dead speak forth anthems of eternal praise to the King Immanuel, who hath ordained, before the world was, that which would enable us to redeem them out of their prison; for the prisoners shall go free."<sup>23</sup>

<sup>21</sup>Gen. & Hist. Mag., vol. 21, pp. 99-100.

<sup>23</sup>Gen. & Hist. Mag., vol. 21, p. 57; D. & C. 128:22.

<sup>22</sup>Smith, *op. cit.*, p. 330.

FULNESS OF PRIESTHOOD IS IN SEALING POWER OF ELIJAH. But now we have the fulness of the power of the priesthood. The Lord has restored the keys and authorities of all the dispensations and has made it possible, *by the power of Elijah*, to make every act performed by authority of force when men are dead or out of the world. Let us remember that all contracts, bonds, oaths, or performances, which are not entered into by the authority of this sealing power, are of no efficacy or virtue after men are dead. The house of the Lord is a house of order and everything in it is obedient to divine law.<sup>24</sup>

When a man assumes authority which he does not have and becomes a law unto himself, according to the word of the Lord, he is not justified and must remain filthy still.<sup>25</sup> Let each member of the Church reflect carefully upon these things and see to it that he or she is in perfect harmony with that which the Lord has revealed, and that all ordinances are received *under the hands of those who are officially called and endowed with power from on high.*<sup>26</sup>