

**“He Lived Great . . . He Died Great in the Eyes of God” (D&C 135:3)**

**Doctrine of Eternal Sealing Power: (1839-1846)**

D&C 2:1-3

JST Exodus 34:1, 2

Moses 6:7

Abraham 1:2-4; 2:8-10

D&C 84:19-25

D&C 107:40-42; 53-56

D&C 110:11-16

D&C 112:30-32; 124:28, 40-41

D&C 131:1-4

D&C 132:29-32

*The Prophet Joseph Smith:* “The doctrine or sealing power of Elijah is— . . . The first thing you do, go and seal on earth your sons and daughters unto yourself, and yourself unto your fathers in eternal glory” (*History of the Church* 6:254).

*Elder Parley P. Pratt:* “During these interviews [the Prophet Joseph] taught me many great and glorious principles concerning God and the heavenly order of eternity. It was at this time that I received from him the first idea of eternal family organization, and the eternal union of the sexes in those inexpressibly endearing relationships which none but the highly intellectual, the refined and pure in heart, know how to prize, and which are at the very foundation of everything worthy to be called happiness.

“Till then I had learned to esteem kindred affections and sympathies as appertaining solely to this transitory state, as something from which the heart must be entirely weaned, in order to be fitted for its heavenly state.

“It was Joseph Smith who taught me how to prize the enduring relationships of father and mother, husband and wife, of brother and sister, son and daughter.

“It was from him that I learned that the wife of my bosom might be secured to me for time and all eternity, and that the refined sympathies and affections which endeared us to each other emanated from the fountain of divine eternal love. It was from him that I learned that we might cultivate these affections, and grow and increase in the same to all eternity; while the result of our endless union would be an offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven, or the sands of the sea shore.

“It was from him that I learned the true dignity and destiny of a son of God, clothed with an eternal priesthood, as the patriarch and sovereign of his countless offspring. It was from him that I learned that the highest dignity of womanhood, was, to stand as a queen and priestess to her husband, and to reign forever and ever as the queen mother of her numerous and still increasing offspring.

“I have loved before, but I knew not why. But now I loved—with a pureness an intensity of elevated, exalted feeling, which would lift my soul from the transitory things of this groveling sphere and expand it as the ocean. I felt that God was my heavenly Father indeed; that Jesus was my brother, and that the wife of my bosom was an immortal, eternal companion; a kind of ministering angel, given to me as a comfort, and a crown of glory for ever and ever. In short, I could now love with the spirit and with understanding also” (*Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*, Deseret Book Co., 1968, 297-298).

*President Ezra Taft Benson:* How did Adam bring his descendants into the presence of the Lord? The answer: Adam and his descendants entered into the priesthood order of God. Today we would say they went to the house of the Lord and received their blessings. The order of priesthood spoken of in the scriptures is sometimes referred to as the patriarchal

order because it came down from father to son. But this order is otherwise described in modern revelation as an order of family government where a man and woman enter into a covenant with God—just as did Adam and Eve—to be sealed for eternity, to have posterity, and to do the will and work of God throughout their mortality. . . .

“When our children obey the Lord and go to the temple to receive their blessings and enter into the marriage covenant, they enter the same order of the priesthood that God instituted in the very beginning with father Adam. . . .

“This order of priesthood can only be entered into when we comply with all the commandments of God and seek the blessings of the fathers as did Abraham by going to our Father’s house. They are received in no other place on this earth. . . We go to His house to enter into that order of priesthood which will entitle us to all that the Father hath, if we are faithful. For as the Lord has revealed in modern times, Abraham’s seed are ‘lawful heirs’ to the priesthood (see D&C 86:6-11)” (*Ensign*, August 1985, 9-10).

*Elder Bruce R. McConkie*: “Now what was the gospel of Abraham? Obviously it was the commission, the mission, the endowment and power, the message of salvation, given to Abraham. And what was this? It was a divine promise that both in the world and out of the world his seed should continue ‘as innumerable as the stars; or, if ye were to count the sand upon the seashore, ye could not number them.’ (D&C 132:30; Gen. 17; Abr. 2:1-12).

Thus the gospel of Abraham was one of Celestial marriage; . . . it was a gospel or commission to provide a lineage for the elect portion of the pre-existent spirits, a gospel to provide a household in eternity for those who live the fulness of the celestial law” (*Mormon Doctrine*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 219-220).

*The Prophet Joseph Smith*: “When a seal is put upon the father and mother, it secures their posterity, so that they cannot be lost, but will be saved by virtue of the covenant of their father and mother” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Deseret Book Co., 1938, 321).

*President James E. Faust*: “We remember that the prodigal son wasted his inheritance, and when it was all gone he came back to his father’s house. There he was welcomed back into the family, but his inheritance was spent. Mercy will not rob justice, and the sealing power of faithful parents will only claim wayward children upon the condition of their repentance and Christ’s Atonement. Repentant wayward children will enjoy salvation and all the blessings that go with it, but exaltation is much more. It must be fully earned. The question as to who will be exalted must be left to the Lord in His mercy” (*Dear Are the Sheep That Have Wandered*, *Ensign*, May 2003, p. 62).

*Elder Gordon B. Hinckley*: “The mind of Joseph Smith, tutored by the God of heaven, encompassed all mankind of all generations. Both the living and the dead must have the opportunity to partake of gospel ordinances” (*Conference Report*, April 1977, p. 96).

D&C 135:3; D&C 132:49.

*President George Albert Smith*: “There have been some who have belittled him, but I would like to say that those who have done so will be forgotten and their remains will go back to mother earth, if they have not already gone, and the odor of their infamy will never die, while the glory and honor and majesty and courage and fidelity manifested by the Prophet Joseph Smith will attach to his name forever” (*Conference Report*, April 1946, 181, 182).