

Negroes In The Priesthood

For many years the Mormon Church leaders have taught that a Negro cannot hold the Priesthood. Bruce R. McConkie, of the Council of the Seventy, stated:

Negroes in this life are denied the priesthood; under no circumstances can they hold this delegation of authority from the Almighty. (*Mormon Doctrine*, page 477)

The Mormon historian Joseph Fielding Smith has criticized the Reorganized Church for ordaining a "few" Negroes to the Priesthood:

In the "Reorganized" Church they have a few, at least, of the Negro race, that they have "ordained to the priesthood" but it is **contrary to the word of God**. (*Origin of the Reorganized Church*, page 130)

The Mormon leaders teach that a person with even "one drop of Negro blood" cannot hold the Priesthood. The Mormon Apostle Mark E. Petersen stated:

If I were to marry a Negro woman and have children by her, my children would **all be cursed as to the Priesthood**. . . . If there is **one drop of Negro blood in my children**, as I have read to you, **they receive the curse**. (Race Problems—As They Affect the Church, Address by Mark E. Petersen at the Convention of Teachers of Religion on the College Level, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, August 27, 1954, 1965 reprint, page 7)

Outwardly the Mormon doctrine concerning the Negro seems to be firm and absolute. "**One drop** of Negro blood," the Mormon leaders declare, would prevent a man from holding the Priesthood. The truth is, however, that some people with Negro blood are being ordained to the Priesthood.

Although we were aware of the fact that a "colored man" by the name of Elijah Abel held the Priesthood in the Mormon Church, we were very astonished to learn that his descendants have also been ordained to the Priesthood. This information was found by Bob Phillips—who has done a tremendous job of tracing Elijah Abel's descendants. The following is a copy of a chart, given to us by Bob Phillips, showing the Elijah Abel and his descendants were ordained to the Priesthood:

ORDINATIONS TO PRIESTHOOD

Elijah Able	Ordained an Elder March 3, 1836. Ordained a Seventy April 4, 1841. Nauvoo, Illinois
Enoch Able (son of Elijah)	Ordained an Elder November 10, 1900. by John Q. Adams Logan 5th Ward, Utah
Elijah Able (grandson of Elijah) son of Enoch	Ordained a Priest July 5, 1934. by J. C. Hogenson Ordained an Elder September 29, 1935. by Reuben S. Hill Logan 10th Ward, Utah

After receiving this chart we began to search through the records in the Genealogical Society, which is owned by the Mormon Church, to see if we could confirm the statement that Elijah Abel's descendants have been ordained to the Priesthood. With the help of Bob Phillips we were able to find information that proves that the Negro blood in the Abel family has not prevented some of them from holding the Priesthood. We have obtained a photograph of Elijah Abel's grandson's ward membership record which proves that he was ordained to the Priesthood. This photograph is included in a new book we have just finished printing entitled, *Joseph Smith's Curse Upon the Negro*.

Bob Phillips states that there are at least sixty descendants of Elijah Abel in the Mormon Church. At least forty of these live within a radius of 100 miles of Salt Lake City, and, of course, some of them hold the Priesthood and are doing missionary work for the Church. Elijah Abel had six daughters, therefore many of his descendants do not have the name *Abel*. Some of their children were apparently adopted into "white" families in Utah. It is evident, then, that some members of the Mormon Church who believe they are "white" are in reality part Negro.

In the book, *Joseph Smith's Curse Upon the Negro*, we devote six pages to Elijah Abel, his descendants and other Negroes who have held the Priesthood in the Mormon Church.

The book has a plastic binding and will sell for \$2.00 a copy. The quantity prices are: 2 for \$3.50 — 5 for \$7.00 — 10 for \$12.00 — 20 for \$20.00.

LACK OF FUNDS

Although we have sold many more books this year than we did last year, we still find ourselves in need of funds. In order to keep going last year we had to take out three additional loans. To meet the payments on these loans and our other necessary expenses we have to sell almost fifty dollars worth of books every day.

We have plans for several projects which we consider to be extremely important, however, we will need a good deal of money to carry these plans into effect. We owe one company over \$1,400 for paper, and we must bring this balance down before charging any more paper with them. In order to raise the money we need we have decided to have another 10% sale on all our books and to sell gift certificates.

We hope that these two ideas will bring in the money that we need to continue this work in an effective manner.

10% SALE

This sale begins when our customers receive this notice, and it will continue until December 31, 1965.

A special price list is enclosed which shows the price of each book with the 10% discount already discounted.

To avoid confusion the sale does not apply to any orders placed prior to the time this paper is received.

GIFT CERTIFICATES

GIVE MODERN MICROFILM BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

We have now printed gift certificates for those who wish to give Modern Microfilm books for Christmas, birthdays, etc. These certificates will be honored for the purchase of any books in stock at Modern Microfilm Co. The person who receives the certificate can either come to our store or send in his order by mail. We will send a book list and an order form for their convenience in ordering the books of their choice.

We will give a 10% discount on all gift certificates ordered before December 31, 1965. For example, if you were to order a \$5.00 gift certificate you would only send \$4.50. Below is an example of how you would fill out the order form to receive two gift certificates (one for \$10.00 and one for \$3.00) and a copy of the book, *Mormonism—Shadow or Reality?*

-- ORDER FORM --

QUANTITY	TITLE	PRICE
1	#10 GIFT CERTIFICATE	9 00
1	#3 GIFT CERTIFICATE	2 70
1	MORMONISM—SHADOW or REALITY	4 50

Pass It On

Have you had a kindness shown?
 Pass it on;
 'Twas not given for thee alone,
 Pass it on;
 Let it travel down the years,
 Let it wipe another's tears,
 Till in heaven the deed appears—
 Pass it on.

Did you hear a loving word?
 Pass it on;
 Like the singing of a bird?
 Pass it on;
 Let its music live and grow,
 Let it cheer another's woe,
 You have reap'd what others sow—
 Pass it on.

Be not selfish in thy greed,
 Pass it on;
 Look upon thy brother's need,
 Pass it on;
 Live for self, you live in vain,
 Live for Christ, you live again,
 Live for Him, with Him you reign—
 Pass it on.

—Henry K. Burton

CHANGES IN THE KEY TO THEOLOGY

Dr. Hugh Nibley, of the Brigham Young University, claims that Joseph Smith's teachings "are so well-knit and perfectly logical that they have never had to undergo the **slightest change or alteration** during a century in which every other church in Christendom has continually revamped its doctrines" (*No, Ma'am, That's Not History*, pages 57-58). On page 61 of the same book Dr. Nibley stated:

The gospel as the Mormons knew it sprang full-grown from the words of Joseph Smith. It has never been **worked over or touched up** in any way, and is **free of revisions and alterations**.

In a book we have just finished printing, *Changes in the Key to Theology*, we show that Dr. Nibley's statement are completely false. The Mormon leaders not only change the doctrines of the Church, but they also change their books to make it appear that no doctrinal changes have been made. For example, in 1855 Parley P. Pratt published a book entitled, *Key to the Science of Theology*. Two years after this book was printed Parley P. Pratt (who was an Apostle in the Mormon Church) was assassinated at Van Buren, Arkansas. The Church, however, has continued to reprint his book; in 1965 the Deseret Book Co., which is owned by the Mormon Church, printed the "Ninth Edition." We have compared the 1965 reprint with the original 1855 edition and have found many important changes.

Some of the most important changes are concerning the doctrine of polygamy. Today the Mormon leaders do not teach the doctrine of polygamy, but in 1855, when Parley P. Pratt wrote this book, polygamy was an accepted practice and doctrine of the Mormon Church. In the first edition of this book Parley P. Pratt defended the practice of polygamy. The 1883 edition (which was printed 26 years after his death) included this defense of polygamy. Sometime between 1883 and 1965, however, the Mormon leaders deleted Parley P. Pratt's statements concerning polygamy. In the first edition the following statement appeared:

... restored with the priesthood of the Saints of this age.

Again, it was a law of the ancient Priesthood, and is again restored, that a man who is faithful in all things, may, by the word of the Lord, through the administration of one holding the keys to bind on earth and heaven, receive and secure to himself, for time and all eternity, **more than one wife**.

Thus did Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, the Patriarchs and Prophets of old.

The principal object contemplated by this law, is the multiplication of the children of good and worthy fathers, who will teach them the truth, and train them in the holy principles of salvation. This is far preferable to sending them into the world in the lineage of an unworthy or ignorant parentage, to be educated in error, folly, ignorance and crime.

The peculiar characteristics of the blessings included in the Everlasting Covenant made with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and their lineage, was the multiplicity of their seed; and the perpetuity of the royal, priestly and kingly power in their lineage.

To assist in carrying out and fulfilling this covenant, good and virtuous women were given to their faithful Prophets, rulers, and wise and virtuous men; and, as it was said of the four wives of Jacob, "These did build the house of Israel."

While peculiar blessings and encouragements were given to a good and faithful man, and to his wives and children; while they were honored of God, and respected by all who knew them; while the father of a hundred children was had in greater honour than the hero of a hundred battles, adultery, fornication, and all unlawful intercourse was strictly prohibited, and even punished by the strictest laws—the penalty of which was death.

A daughter of Israel, who, by prostitution, was rendered unworthy, or unqualified for the duties of a virtuous wife and mother, was considered unfit to live. While the male who would thus trifle with the fountain of life, and contribute to render a female unworthy to answer the end of her creation, was also condemned to death.

Strict laws were also given and diligently taught . . . (*The Key to Theology*, 1855 ed., pages 163-164)

In the 1965 edition, page 164, 341 words have been deleted. It now reads as follows:

... restored with the priesthood of the Saints of this age.
 Strict laws were also given and diligently taught . . .

Hundreds of other words concerning the doctrine of polygamy have also been deleted without any indication. On page 29 of the first edition this statement appears:

Jesus Christ, a little babe like all the rest of us have been, grew to be a man, was filled with a divine substance or fluid, called the Holy Spirit, by which he comprehended and spake the truth in power and authority; and by which he controlled the elements, and imparted health and life to those who were prepared to partake of the same.

In the 1965 reprint, page 37 this has been changed to read:

Jesus Christ, a little babe like all the rest of us have been, grew to be a man, and "received a fulness of the glory of the Father; and he received all Power, both in heaven and on earth; and the glory of the Father was with him, for he dwelt in him."

Notice that the Mormon leaders have completely rewritten this statement by Parley P. Pratt.

In chapter 5 which is entitled "Keys to the Mysteries of the Godhead," Parley P. Pratt did not have anything to say concerning the Holy Ghost. The Mormon leaders, however, filled the vacuum by adding 123 words. Parley P. Pratt had much to say concerning the Holy Spirit (in Mormon theology the Holy Spirit is considered to be separate from the Holy Ghost), but the Mormon leaders evidently did not like what he said, for they have deleted hundreds of words.

There are many other important changes which we do not have room to mention here, however, we have obtained photocopies of the original 1855 edition and have made a photomechanical reprint of it with all the changes marked. This book has a plastic binding. The price is \$3.00 a copy. The quantity prices are 2 for \$5.00 — 5 for \$10.00 — 10 for \$18.00.

Bible Study

We are now holding a Bible study in our home at 1350 S. West Temple, every Thursday evening at 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome.

For God has not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
 (1 Thessalonians 4:7)