

eral quorums, which constitute the spiritual authorities of the church, otherwise there can be no appeal from their decision.—Sec. cvii, 30-32.

In other words, there can be no appeal from the decision of the First Presidency of the Church, except their decision be rendered in unrighteousness, and without love, and charity, etc., and in that case the appeal would have to be taken to the assembled bodies of the Priesthood. It means that when the Twelve Apostles are acting as Presidents of the Church, and they render a decision affecting the welfare of the Church, or on doctrine, their is absolutely no appeal from their decision, excepting it is rendered in unrighteousness. And the same would apply, of necessity, to a decision rendered by the Seventy in the absence of the First Presidency and Twelve,—if such a thing could be thought of at all. Thus how glorious and how perfect is the organization of the Priesthood which God Almighty has established in the earth for the last time. And it is the duty of men who bear this Priesthood to study it, and to learn the principle of government, and each to understand his duty and his place, and keep himself in his place and in the line of his duty. Then there will be no clashing, no contention, and no disorder in the house of God; for the house of God is a house of order.

There is much more that might be said on this subject; but I want to refer to just one other passage of Scripture. Speaking to the whole Church, the Lord, in a revelation given in 1841, says:

Verily I say unto you, I now give unto you the officers belonging to my Priesthood, that ye may hold the keys thereof, even the Priesthood which is after the order of Melchisedek, which is after the order of my Only Begotten Son.

First, I give unto you Hyrum Smith, to be a Patriarch unto you, to hold the sealing blessings of my church, even the Holy Spirit of promise, whereby ye are sealed up unto the day of redemption, that ye may not fall, notwithstanding the hour of temptation that may come upon you.

I give unto you my servant Joseph, to be a presiding elder over all my church, to be a translator, a revelator, a seer, and prophet.

I give unto him for counselors, my servant Sidney Rigdon, and my servant William Law, that these may constitute a quorum and First Presidency, to receive the oracles for the whole church.—Sec. cxix, 123-126.

This is the pattern; this is the law; this is the way the Church is organized; this is the way the Priesthood is to be governed. The Lord has not only commanded it, but has set the example by naming the three Presidents of the Church. And I tell you that this order of the Priesthood cannot be done away. It is not lawful or right for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to exist any great length of time without an organization of three First Presidents of the Church; for that is the order of the Priesthood. It is their right to receive the gifts of revelation and inspiration, and of blessing upon all the Church; and the First President is the mouthpiece of God, the revelator, the translator, the seer, and the Prophet of God to the whole Church. It is he who holds the keys of this Holy Priesthood—the keys which unlock the doors of the Temples of God and of the ordinances of His house for the salvation of the living and the redemption of the dead. It is he who holds the sealing power, by which man may bind on earth and it shall be

bound in heaven, and by which men duly authorized and appointed of him who holds the keys may loose on earth and it will be loosed in heaven. This is the order of the Holy Priesthood, and any departure from it is a crime against the law of God, a crime against the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Those men who would do away with the Presidency of the Church, would commit a crime against God, and would do a grievous and irreparable wrong to the Church and to all those who were seeking life eternal through the preaching of the Gospel. They would shut up the doors of the Temples, and shut up the heavens, that there should be no power among men. They would stop the carrying out of the pattern that God has given, by which His work is to be perpetuated in the earth and the Gospel carried to every creature.

The Lord goes on with this pattern:

I give unto you my servant Brigham Young, to be a President over the Twelve traveling Council, which Twelve hold the keys to open up the authority of my kingdom upon the four corners of the earth, and after that to send my word to every creature;

They are—Heber C. Kimball, Parley P. Pratt, Orson Pratt, Orson Hyde, William Smith, John Taylor, John E. Page, Wilford Woodruff, Willard Richards, George A. Smith; David Patten I have taken unto myself; behold, his Priesthood no man taketh from him, but, verily I say unto you, another may be appointed unto the same calling.

And again, I say unto you, I give unto you a High Council, for the corner stone of Zion.—Sec. cxxiv, 127-131.

And so the Lord gives to the Church, not only the pattern, but He names the officers who were chosen of Him to fill these various quorums of the Priesthood at that time. There is not one iota of the plan which He instituted that can be dispensed with. Every quorum must be kept in existence, and be kept alive. They must be entrusted with the responsibility of their various callings and duties in the Church, in order that the Church may be blameless in the sight of God, perfect in its organization, and full of light, and inspiration, and power from the Almighty. When these things are not done, there is a blemish, there is something lacking. So, when there is a vacancy in a council of the Priesthood, we should hasten, with wisdom and prudence, and with prayerfulness of heart, —not in too much haste,—to fill the vacancy, that every quorum of the Priesthood may be perfect in its organization, and the Church be properly organized. No man can put too much stress upon these things. Without them there is no government. Without obedience to these rules and patterns that God has given, the Church is not perfect; but, with these quorums organized and this authority diffused among the body, down to the very teachers that visit you in your homes, then the Church is organized after the pattern and plan that God has instituted, and it is perfect in itself, like a perfect man, even like Christ Jesus, who was perfect,—with head, with eyes, and ears, and mouth, arms, legs and trunk, and with every part perfect in itself, performing the duties belonging to it, so that there may be no inefficiency in the work of the ministry or in the edifying of the body of Christ. You lop off one of these quorums, and you lop off the head, perhaps, or the legs, or the arms, or the feet, or you put out the eyes, or you

shut the mouth. In this way you maim the Priesthood of God, and you bring confusion and discord into its ranks, followed by disorganization and disintegration. I want to say to this congregation that while we live to whom God has entrusted the watch-care of this people, there shall be no defect in these organizations, so long as He shall give us power to maintain them in their perfect condition and order. We will see to it, by the help of God, and we will not shrink from our duties. Though men get into the dark, and accuse and upbraid us, and say all manner of evil against us falsely, we care not for that; for the work of God is resting upon us, and upon all the people. Every man and woman who is a member bears, and legitimately should bear, a portion of the responsibility of carrying on this great and glorious latter-day work.

May God bless you, and may He bless all those who bless Zion, and all those who sustain in their hearts and faith, the constituted authorities of the Church, and hold them up before the Lord in righteousness, and pray for them. Pray for the remission of their sins, if they have sinned. Pray that God will not suffer them to be led into temptation. Pray that they may be strong in their callings. Pray that God may not withdraw His hand from them to leave them to themselves, but that He may have His hand stretched over them day by day, and hour by hour, for their guidance, prosperity, and success in administering the ordinances of the Gospel, and the word of the Lord, and the principles and rights of government in the midst of the Saints, that the Church may be kept intact, and that the people of God may grow and advance until the perfect day. This is our work and our mission, and we are doing the best we can, with our imperfections. For we are weak men. We have not the honor, nor the glory. It is God's. He has chosen the weak, in order that the glory may be His, to whom it rightfully belongs. It is God's work, and not man's. I want to say to this body of Priesthood here, learn your duty, learn to sustain the authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And if one of the Twelve Apostles, or one of the First Presidency, or anybody claiming authority to guide or direct the people comes out in opposition to the united counsel of the Priesthood of God, set him down as a deceiver and a fraud, and one that you cannot afford to follow; for if you do follow him, you will go astray. God's work is established; it is built upon a solid foundation—the foundation of the Gospel and the eternal Priesthood, which is without beginning of days or end of years, without father or mother, and without descent, from everlasting to everlasting. It is the power of God delegated to men; and they that exercise it in righteousness will stand, while they that exercise it in unrighteousness will fall, no matter who they may be.

God bless Israel. God bless our venerable and venerated President, Wilford Woodruff; keep him from sickness, pain and suffering; give to him brightness of mind and power of intellect; give to him strength of body and of mind, and inspiration from God, that he may be a prophet, a seer, and a revelator in very deed to the body of the Church and to all the Priesthood of the Son of God upon the earth; that his days may be prolonged; that he may live until he shall