



# Why did Moses, Elias, and Elijah appear in the Kirtland Temple?

President Dallin H. Oaks, First Counselor in the First Presidency, taught: “All keys of the priesthood are held by the Lord Jesus Christ, whose priesthood it is. He is the one who determines what keys are delegated to mortals and how those keys will be used.”<sup>3</sup> The President of the Church has authority from the Lord to exercise all the priesthood keys that are needed for the Church to function (see Doctrine and Covenants 132:7).

“As we prepare to meet God, we can know what our divinely appointed responsibilities are by reviewing the sacred keys restored in the Kirtland Temple.”<sup>1</sup>

—Elder Quentin L. Cook of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles



## What Are Priesthood Keys?

Priesthood keys are the authority God has given priesthood leaders to direct and govern the use of His priesthood on earth.<sup>2</sup>



### MOSES

Led the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt



### ELIAS

“Apparently lived in the days of Abraham”<sup>5</sup>



### ELIJAH

Was a prophet in the Northern Kingdom of Israel, about 900 BC

## DISCUSSION

What blessings have you received because of the priesthood? What can you do to participate in this “divinely appointed” work?

## Priesthood Keys and Authority

On April 3, 1836, the Lord sent Old Testament priesthood holders Moses, Elias, and Elijah to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to commit to them the following:

## The keys of the gathering of Israel

“The gathering of Israel from the four parts of the earth” (Doctrine and Covenants 110:11)

“When we speak of the *gathering*, we are simply saying this fundamental truth: every one of our Heavenly Father’s children, on both sides of the veil, deserves to hear the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.”<sup>4</sup>  
—President Russell M. Nelson

## The dispensation of the gospel of Abraham

“In us and our seed all generations after us should be blessed” (Doctrine and Covenants 110:12)

“With this renewal [of the Abrahamic covenant], we have received, as did they of old, the holy priesthood and the everlasting gospel. We have the right to receive the fulness of the gospel, enjoy the blessings of the priesthood, and qualify for God’s greatest blessing—that of eternal life.”<sup>6</sup>  
—President Russell M. Nelson

## The keys of the sealing power

“Turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers” (Doctrine and Covenants 110:15)

“Sealing keys, restored by the Old Testament prophet Elijah, enable ordinances to take place in holy temples. Ordinances performed in these temples enable individuals and families to return to the presence of our heavenly parents.”<sup>7</sup>  
—Elder Gary E. Stevenson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

ILLUSTRATIONS BY TOBY NEWSOME

## NOTES

1. Quentin L. Cook, “Prepare to Meet God,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2018, 114.
2. See *General Handbook: Serving in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 3.4.1, ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
3. Dallin H. Oaks, “The Keys and Authority of the Priesthood,” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2014, 50.
4. Russell M. Nelson, “Hope of Israel” (worldwide youth devotional, June 3, 2018), HopeofIsrael.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
5. Guide to the Scriptures, “Elias,” scriptures.ChurchofJesusChrist.org.
6. Russell M. Nelson, “Covenants,” *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2011, 87–88.
7. Gary E. Stevenson, “Where Are the Keys and Authority of the Priesthood?” *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2016, 31.