

Elijah Restores the Power to Seal Families for Eternity

Malachi 4:5–6; Matthew 17:1–3; Doctrine and Covenants 110:13–16

Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. Doctrine and Covenants 2:1–2

Elijah was the last prophet to hold certain keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood before the time of Jesus Christ. During Christ’s mortal ministry, Elijah appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses to give these keys to the Savior (see Matthew 17:1–3). Elijah appeared again on April 3, 1836, in the Kirtland Temple to restore these same keys to the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery (see D&C 110:13–16). This appearance was the fulfillment of a prophecy that declared that Elijah would come in the

last days as a preparation for the Second Coming of the Lord (see Malachi 4:5–6).

The keys Elijah held and restored are the keys to the sealing power of the high priesthood of God. By this authority, families can be sealed together for eternity according to the plan of our Father in Heaven. The keys of this power and blessing are used in the holy temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to provide sealing ordinances for all of God’s children.

Summary

Elijah, a prophet who lived on this earth hundreds of years before Christ was born, visited the Prophet Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery

in the Kirtland Temple in 1836. Elijah gave these men the authority and priesthood power to seal families together for eternity.

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