



HIGHER GROUND
CALVARY CHAPEL

SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

Damned Deceptions:
Class 08
The Priesthood

We are discussing the issue of
spiritual authority

We have discussed the topic of
spiritual authority as a prophet of
God

Neither the Jehovah's Witnesses
nor the Latter Day Church can
claim that authority

So we are going to discuss a
spiritual authority that is claimed
specifically by the Latter Day
Church

This is going to be the issue of the
Priesthood

It is the position of the Latter Day Church that they believe the Bible [specifically the King James Bible] *“only as it is correctly interpreted”*

This raises the question of how we can know if it is correctly interpreted
To this end, the Latter Day Church claims that they, and only they, can correctly interpret or explain the King James Bible

This is why, when we share our interpretation of Scripture they nod politely
But they ignore us completely
They do not believe that we have the spiritual authority to interpret or apply Scripture

The Latter Day Church makes claims to two levels of priesthood
They claim to have the Aaronic Priesthood
And they claim to have the Melchizedek Priesthood
They claim that Christians have no priesthood authority

The teaching of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints is that they are the only true Church in the entire world
All other Churches are an abomination to God
That would include us

This is why they refer to themselves as the "Restored Church"
Somehow things got lost along the way
Everything was corrupted
God had to start over
He started over with Joseph Smith

Being the restored Church, they have other revelations from God
These are new revelations
Unfortunately, they test the old revelations by their new revelations
They do this because in their mind their God is allowed to change His Gospel

The relations between Christians and Mormon is, unfortunately, a confrontational one
This is because the Mormons teach that we are all an abomination to God
And that is why He called Joseph Smith

The Mormons will tell you that they believe in the Bible, but will always add:
"As correctly interpreted"
This is their back door to ignore all you say

This means that only a Mormon who has the priesthoods can correctly interpret the Scriptures
Without the priesthood to guide us, they believe that we lack both the legal authority and skill to interpret any passage in the Bible

Therefore, when dealing with the Mormons, we must first deal with the issue of the priesthood
Why they are wrong to believe that they have the priesthood
And how believers have a different priesthood called “the Priesthood of the Believer”

In May of 1829, Oliver Cowdery and Joseph Smith went into the woods to pray about baptism for the remission of sins.
While they were praying, John the Baptist appeared and conferred the Aaronic Priesthood upon them and gave them instructions about how to baptize each other.



Later, Peter, James and John conferred the Melchizedek Priesthood upon them.
[Joseph Smith, *History* 1:68 – 72]



Joseph Smith passed these
priesthoods on to his followers

So before we can share anything
about the Bible; we must
establish our authority to interpret
and translate Scripture; and
We must remove their authority to
interpret and translate Scripture

Mormon Missionaries will ask you
if you have the authority, or they
will question your authority
In reality, the Bible gives us two
sources of authority
Both sources come from Jesus
Christ who is greater than John
the Baptist, Peter, James or John

So if there is any issue of authority, we have the greater authority because of the source of our authority

I suggest you have them read these verses to you and explain to you what they mean – if they can.

John 1:12 – 13:

“But as many as received Him [Jesus], to them He gave the power to become the sons of God, even to those who believe on His name:

Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Now this will open the question of what it means to “receive” Jesus
Here you might want to show them John 3:16:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believes on Him, should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

They may claim that they have received Jesus.
At this point we need to apply the test of "Which Jesus" have they received or "Which Jesus" have they believed

Ask them if they have prayed directly to Jesus Christ, personally
Ask them if they have prayed to Jesus Christ and asked Him to forgive their sins
Ask them if they have prayed to Jesus Christ and asked Him to be their Savior

In most cases, the answer will be "No"
This is because Mormons are taught not to pray to Jesus...
Only to God
Their doctrine is designed to keep them from ever getting saved

At this point you might want to have them read Acts 4:12:

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

You may want to ask them to define “salvation” and “saved”

If they have not prayed to Jesus
They have not received Jesus
They cannot claim the authority
that we claim

In the Mormon doctrine, Jesus is not the only Begotten Son of God.

In their teaching, all of us are the begotten sons and daughter of God because every time their God has sex in Heaven, a spirit baby is born

In the Christian teaching, God has only one son, which was Begotten of Him

This was done without sexual relations between God and Mary

Have them read I John 4:1 – 2:

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

[This is how you can know] the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God:...”

I John 4:3:

“...And every spirit that confesses not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof you have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.”

Ask them to define what it means for Jesus to “come in the flesh”
They believe Jesus was a spirit baby before He was born to Mary

Their own doctrine requires someone to be born physically before he can attain godhood
By their own teaching, Jesus could not have been God before He was born

This is basic to the core of Mormon teachings.
They teach pre-existence – for everyone
Everyone was a spirit baby that was born into the human race
There are many more spirit babies up in Heaven waiting to be born into the human race

Once they have a physical body
they can become a God
But that is not what I John 4:2 is
saying

Jesus began as God – not a spirit
baby
He was God before He had a
physical body
He chose to be born into the
human race
He lived as a man – He became
human
In Heaven, He still is human

They teach Jesus is working His
way toward Godhood
Like all their males are doing
We teach – and the Bible teaches
– that Jesus is God who became
human to save us
He remains related to us by birth
He remains a human being

Now, is this the Jesus that they claim to have received?
Is this the Jesus that they claim to have believed?
Not if they are honest concerning their teachings
Therefore, they cannot claim that Jesus has given them the authority to become a son of God

We have the authority; they do not
So let's look at their authority – their priesthods

Where does the Aaronic priesthood come from?
It comes from the Law of Moses
Who was the first High Priest?
That would be Aaron

Notice that they call it the Aaronic Priesthood rather than the Levitical Priesthood

You may want to ask your Mormon if they have the Aaronic Priesthood or the Levitical Priesthood

They may or may not know the difference

The Aaronic Priesthood – discussed in Hebrews – refers to only the High Priest

He offers the sacrifice for the Day of Atonement

It is offered once a year

All other priests perform the other duties in the Temple

The other priests' service is severely limited

They cannot wear the garments made "for glory and beauty"

They cannot enter the Holy of Holies

They cannot offer the sacrifice for the Day of Atonement

Only the High Priest could do that

Hebrews 5:4:

“And no man takes this honor [the priesthood] unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.”

You do not choose to be a priest.

You are called to be a priest

You have to be called by God since you will be His priest

How did someone else become a High Priest since there was only one of them?

The High Priest had to be a son of Aaron

A non-son of Aaron can never be a High Priest

A Gentile could never be the High Priest

For a Gentile, non-son of Aaron to become an Aaronic Priest there would have to be a change in the Law of Moses

Although John the Baptist's father was of the Tribe of Levi, John was not a son of Aaron

Therefore, it would not be legal for John the Baptist to pass on a priesthood that he was never legally qualified to hold.

The way the Office of the High Priest was passed down to the son would be for the High Priest to either step down or die.

It was transferred via a "laying on of hands" and a ceremony

The Mormons lay hands and use a ceremony, but John was not legal to give them the priesthood

John the Baptist's father was a priest of Levi

He was not a son of Aaron

John did not qualify for the High Priest – ever

How can John the Baptist pass on what he did not legally qualify for himself?

He can't!

Under the Law of Moses, before a person could be a priest under the Levitical Order they must be:

A Jew

Of the tribe of Levi

The Jews have discovered a genetic marker to identify someone being of the Tribe of Levi

To be of the Aaronic Priesthood a person would have to be:

A Jew

A member of the Tribe of Levi

A descendant of Aaron

A descendant of the former High Priest

Can the Mormons show us in the Bible where the Law of Moses was changed by God?

[Note: there was a change in the Law by God, but it was not in their favor...

...More on that later.]

There is also another problem Mormons have regarding the Aaronic Priesthood

It was designed by God to offer the sacrifice once a year, in the Holy of Holies behind the Veil in the Temple on the Day of Atonement

However, there was a problem with the priesthood

This applied to both the Aaronic Priesthood and the Levitical Priesthood

They were imperfect

Hebrews 10:1:

“For the law [being] a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.”

If the priesthood were perfect, it would only offer the sacrifice once
Hebrews 10:2:

“For then would they not have ceased to be offered? because that the worshippers once purged should have had no more conscience [issue] of sins.”

But this priesthood was only a shadow of the true priesthood
It was not the real thing

Hebrews 10:3 - 4:

“But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.”

The Law of Moses limited what the Levitical and Aaronic Priesthood could offer as a sacrifice to God

What they were allowed to offer, could not permanently resolve the issue of sin

The offerings had to be offered over and over again

They could only cover the sin
They could not remove the sin
This means these Priesthoods were flawed Priesthoods

It means that they failed to do what was needed to be done

They were failed Priesthoods

How did God deal with this flawed priesthood?
Notice what happened when Jesus died on the cross

Matthew 27:50 – 51:
“Jesus, when He had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost.
And, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks broke;”

The sacrifice of Jesus did what the Levitical and Aaronic Priesthoods could not
It removed sins permanently
It gave us direct access to God
It was perfect
It only had to be offered once for all

Hebrews 10:10:

“By which we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

What is the significance of the Veil in the Temple tearing in two?

God was no longer separated from us because of sin

Why did it tear from top to bottom?

Because it was God reaching down to tear it.

What message was God declaring through this action?

We did not need a priest to come before God

Let me repeat that message:

‘THERE IS NO LONGER A NEED FOR A PRIEST!’

The Aaronic priesthood had come to an end
It was only God's temporary solution until Jesus would come.

The author of the Book of Hebrews will discuss this in legal terms
But let me give you a visual aid to demonstrate that God no longer accepts offerings for sin

Per the Talmud every year on the Day of Atonement, a red ribbon was tied around the scapegoat [Tractate Shabbat Folio 86a]
The scapegoat was led into the wilderness and released
Until the red ribbon turned white, the strong man would not release the scapegoat

However, per Tractate Yoma 39b in the Talmud, 40 years before the Temple was destroyed [that would be the year Jesus was crucified], the red ribbon did not turn white
It never turned white again for the Day of Atonement
In 70 AD God allowed the Temple to be destroyed

The sacrifice for the Day of Atonement was no longer needed since Jesus offered Himself for our sins
His sacrifice was accepted once and was perfect before God
Jesus was always the priest and the sacrifice that God intended

Question:
Why would God reinstate something He went to such effort and cost to set aside?

Answer:

He wouldn't

There is no basis for God to
reinstate the Levitical or Aaronic
Priesthoods!

How do we know that the Aaronic
Priesthood came to an end?

The Aaronic Priesthood – the
High Priest – had a single
function that was different from all
other priestly functions

He offered the sacrifice and
carried the blood behind the Veil
into the Holy of Holies on the Day
of Atonement

The proof his sacrifice had been
accepted was the red ribbon
turning white

If God no longer accepted the sacrifice for the Day of Atonement; then there was no purpose for the Aaronic Priesthood
Their sacrifice was imperfect; and the perfect sacrifice had come
This is why the Veil was torn

Hebrews 7:11:
“If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron?”

In other words, if the Aaronic priesthood worked, God would have used it to save mankind

Hebrews 7:18:

“For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof.”

Because the Aaronic priesthood was imperfect and had to be repeated every year and could not remove sins; God annulled - brought to an end – the Aaronic Priesthood

That is what “disannulling” means
God took the commandment He had made which empowered the Levitical and Aaronic Priesthoods
And He made them “null and void”
He removed their power and authority

Now God goes not lie
God does not change
And God promised that Aaron
could serve before Him forever
Aaron and the Levites will serve
before God forever

In the Millennium they will offer
sacrifices before Him
But these sacrifices provide food
for the priests to feed their families
And provide food for the Feasts
They are not to provide atonement
for sin

If you are a priest after the Order
of Aaron or Levi; that priesthood
has been set aside by God in
favor of a more perfect
priesthood:
The Melchizedek Priesthood

Genesis 14:18 – 20:

“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God...”

“...And he blessed him, and said, ‘Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth...”

“...And blessed be the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And [Abram] gave him tithes of all.”

So who was Melchizedek?
He met Abram [Abraham] returning
from saving Lot
He was the King of Salem [Peace]
He was the priest of the Most High
God
He blessed Abraham
Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek

The Law of Moses does not
permit any Jew to offer a sacrifice
personally unto God
The sacrifice must be offered by a
priest
King Saul lost the throne because
he offered his own sacrifice

So there is a serious problem with
Jesus being the Messiah and
offering a sacrifice to God for
forgiveness of sin
He was of the Tribe of Judah
He was not of the Tribe of Levi

Under the Law of Moses, it was not legal for Jesus to offer a sacrifice to God directly
So what did God do?

Fortunately, our God is the God of the Impossible
God had a solution
Since the Levitical/Aaronic Priesthood could not remove sins;
God chose a different priesthood

Psalm 110:4:
“The Lord has sworn, and will not repent, ‘You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.’”
Question:
“Why did God swear?”

Hebrews 6:18:

“That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:”

God swore because it established an unbreakable oath

It is impossible for God to lie

Therefore, when God swears an oath

He cannot break it

He cannot change His mind

He cannot do something else

The priesthood of Levi and Aaron was not created with an oath

Hebrews 7:21:

“(For those priests were made [priests] without an oath; but this [the Melchizedek was made] with an oath by He who said unto Him, ‘The Lord swore and will not repent, “You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek:”)””

The Levitical/Aaronic Priesthoods were created without an oath
This means that God can change His mind
God can set them aside
And He did when there was no longer a reason for them to exist
When the perfect came, the imperfect was set aside.

Now the author of Hebrews makes it clear that the Melchizedek priesthood is greater than the Aaronic Priesthood based upon two pieces of information recorded in Genesis Chapter Fourteen

Melchizedek blessed Abraham
Genesis 14:19:
“And [Melchizedek] blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram [Abraham] of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth.”

Hebrews 7:7:

“And without all contradiction the lesser is blessed of the better.”

This is “without contradiction”

This means this concept is accepted as fact

The greater blesses the lesser

The lesser cannot bless the greater

Second, Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek

Genesis 14:20:

“And blessed be the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.’ And he [Abraham] gave him [Melchizedek] tithes of all.”

Hebrews notes that when Abraham gave tithes to Melchizedek it was the same as Levi and Aaron giving tithes to Melchizedek because Levi and Aaron – and all the priests of Israel – were in Abraham’s loins.

Hebrews 7:9 – 10:

“And as I may so say, ‘Levi also, who receives tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.’

For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him”

So even if the Levitical/Aaronic were still empowered to offer sacrifices for sin – which it is not – it would still be subservient and inferior to the Melchizedek priesthood.

The Melchizedek Priesthood was created with an oath
God swore and bound Himself to fulfill His vow.
He could not repent
He could not change His mind
He could not set it aside

The Melchizedek Priesthood was perfect – it only had to offer the sacrifice once for all

It also allowed a king to serve as a priest before God and offer a sacrifice

Something the Levitical/Aaronic Priesthood could not do

Hebrews 10:9 – 10:

“Then said He, ‘Lo, I come to do Your will, O God.’ He takes away the first [priesthood], that He may establish the second [priesthood].

By the [second priesthood]...we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”

Psalm 110:4:

“The Lord has sworn, and will not repent, ‘You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.’”

Hebrews 7:24:

“But this man, because he continues ever, has an unchangeable priesthood.”

Pay attention to two words in these verses:
Psalm 110:4 – “forever”
Hebrews 7:24 – “unchangeable”

“Forever” means that it does not end
“Unchangeable” means it does not change
“Unchangeable” can also be translated as “non-transferable”

The Author of the Book of Hebrews was noting that the Aaronic priesthood changed because the High Priest would die
At death, the priesthood was transferred to the next in line

But Jesus is living right now
He is serving as the High Priest
for us in Heaven right now
There is no need to transfer the
priesthood to anyone else

Hebrews 4:14:
“Seeing then that we have a great
high priest, who is passed into the
heavens, Jesus the Son of God,
let us hold fast our profession.”

Jesus took the Office of the
Melchizedek Priest with Him into
Heaven
He continues to serve in that Office
He will serve forever

In other words, He is still the High Priest, representing us before God via the Melchizedek Priesthood
He still has it
It is not transferable
It will be His office forever

Question:
If being a priest was essential to leading the Church or preaching the Gospel, why were the Disciples not made priests?
Only one Disciple might have been of the Tribe of Levi
That would be Matthew nicknamed "Levi"

There is no record of Jesus passing on a priesthood to any of His Apostles
Jesus could not have transferred the Levitical/Aaronic Priesthood on to any of His Disciples
Jesus was of the Tribe of Judah, not the Tribe of Levi

There is no record of Jesus passing the Melchizedek Priesthood on to any of His Disciples
If the Melchizedek Priesthood COULD be transferred...
...It would have to be transferred directly by Jesus

Smith claims it was Peter, James and John who gave him the Melchizedek Priesthood
They were not legally authorized to transfer that priesthood
It was never theirs to give

Any priesthood given to Joseph Smith was a false priesthood
John the Baptist was not legal to transfer the Aaronic Priesthood
Peter, James and John were not legal to transfer the Melchizedek Priesthood
Neither priesthood was theirs to give

Remember the statement by the author of the Book of Hebrews...

Hebrews 5:4:

“And no man takes this honor [the priesthood] unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.”

You do not choose to be a priest.

You are called to be a priest

You have to be called by God since you will be His priest

God has to be the one to make someone a priest

This is because they are priests to God

God appoints His priests, no one else can

God must make you a priest
Not John the Baptist,
Peter,
James;
Or John the Apostle

How can they transfer any
priesthood to Joseph Smith?
They can't!
Again, only God can make someone
a priest

So if the Mormons do have the
Aaronic Priesthood – which is
questionable since none of them are
Jews, of the Tribe of Levi and of the
line of Aaron...
...IF they have this, it is a defunct
priesthood that God has set aside
because it was imperfect
It could not do what it was supposed
to do.

So maybe – just maybe – they have the defunct Aaronic Priesthood
There is no way that they can have the Melchizedek Priesthood because God gave it to Jesus forever

He is still ministering in the Office
And it cannot be changed or transferred
God swore an oath not to change it

The Mormons have no viable priesthood.
They have no authority to interpret or translate Scriptures
This means that they have no spiritual authority
So who has the spiritual authority?

We do!

We have a third kind of priesthood

It is called the "Priesthood of the Believer"

Every believer in Christ has been given this priesthood.

In Revelation 1:5 – 6:

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood..."

"...And has made us kings and **PRIESTS** unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

[Emphasis has been added]

Jesus can do this for us because
He is God
He is God of this world and ALL
worlds
As God of this world for us, He
can appoint priests to serve Him

Under the Latter Day Church
teachings, He cannot do this
because according to their
doctrines He is not the God of this
world
He is off creating His own world and
has no authority or power over this
world

Through Jesus we have the
Priesthood of the Believer
To qualify for this priesthood you
must:
Pray directly to Jesus
Confess your sins to Jesus
Repent of your sins to Jesus
Ask Him to be your personal Savior

How are Mormons saved?

1. They repent of sins [but ask them about sins]
2. They have no original sin
3. They are baptized into the Mormon Church

4. They are married in the Mormon Temple
5. They work for their salvation
6. They obey all the Mormon doctrines

They do not qualify under Ephesians 2:8 – 9:
“For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Their Plan of Salvation includes works

Jesus is not even on their list of how to be saved

They do not qualify for the Priesthood of the Believer

1 Peter 2:9:

“But you are a chosen generation, a royal **PRIESTHOOD**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that you should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light:”

Again, there is a priesthood given by God to believers that we should represent God before men and share His Gospel to all

Again, the Mormons do not qualify
They teach a different God
They teach a different Jesus
They offer a different Gospel
They offer a different Plan of Salvation

By offering a different Gospel, they are cursed
Galatians 1:8 – 9:
“But though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed...”

“...As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that you have received, let him be accursed.”
Paul called for them to be cursed twice

So we, the Christian Church – the non-Mormons – or the Gentiles as they call us, have the authority given to us by Jesus Christ to be sons of God.

We have the Priesthood of the Believer – also given to us by Jesus Christ
Who is God according to our teachings
And is legally qualified to make us priests

The Mormons claim an imperfect priesthood of Aaron that God set aside because it could not do what it was designed to do
And they claim the Melchizedek Priesthood which the Bible clearly states only Jesus has this priesthood and no one else

They have no valid priesthood
They have no spiritual authority
Therefore they cannot correctly
interpret and apply the Word of
God

So when it comes to who has the
authority to interpret, translate
and apply Scriptures
That would be us...
...Not them

QUESTIONS


