

The Promises God Made to the Fathers

Val Brinkerhoff, 12/5/2019

The patriarchs or “fathers” in scripture, like Adam, Noah, Enoch, and Abraham had strong faith in the LORD, and came to know Him personally, wherein they were promised God’s greatest gift – to have **eternal life**. The journey for each of us to receive this same promise begins as we heed the LORD’s invitation to “**repent and come to me.**” As we take it literally, we too can receive this and other promises. This is why the angel who visited Joseph Smith on Rosh Hashanah of 1823 quoted some 40 scriptures to him that night (Oliver Cowdery recorded all of them, not just the 5 we currently have in JSH 1). The first of these scriptures quoted was Malachi 3. In Joseph Smith History 1:39, we read that the angel quoted Malachi 4:6 *differently* than in the King James Version of our Bible (see also D&C 110:15), stating that **we** - the children must - *with our hearts*, **turn, seal, bind, or remember**, “**the promises [God] made to the fathers,**” if we are to *abide* the great and dreadful day of the LORD’s return. There will be much burning on this day.

The Malachi verses are some of the last verses of the Old Testament. Note that they are not about a physical *sealing* to “the fathers” themselves as we have been taught – but a **turning to** or **remembering the promises God made to them** and to **us** as their *bloodline* or as part of God’s *adopted* posterity. The same promises can be **sealed** upon us too - and by our LORD who is “the Holy Spirit of Promise.” Enoch, Abraham, and other early “fathers” (those who tried to bring their people to Salvation in Christ) made the same covenant we do at baptism – to *serve* God and obey **His will**. Most of the Saints have **not** been taught this understanding (see JST Gen. 9:12; Mosiah 5:5, 8 & endnote 31).

God made other promises to Enoch, Abraham, and Joseph of Egypt (father of Manasseh and Ephraim) that apply directly to us as their literal or spiritually adopted posterity. If we are obedient to the same covenant they made with God at baptism in “**the New and Everlasting Covenant,**” for example, we can inherit the same promises made to righteous men like Abraham (father of the faithful, to be given *the priesthood* to bless the entire earth with it through *service*), and Enoch and the rainbow covenant God made with him in JST Gen. 9, but only **if** we do as they did, by keeping our **covenants** with God (to keep His commandments and receive Christ His Son). Keeping the same **covenant** results in inheriting the same **promises**, thus, we should know these “promises” made to “fathers” (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph sold into Egypt) by God. Note Joseph Smith’s clarifying words hereafter, relative to the Malachi verses Moroni quoted him:

“For behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the **proud**, yea, and all that do wickedly shall burn as stubble; for **they that come shall burn them** [Christ, and the “fathers” and other righteous ones God brings with Him at His return] saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.” And again, he quoted the fifth verse thus: “Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of **Elijah** the prophet [he came as John the Baptist in 1829 to Joseph and Oliver], before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. He also quoted the next verse differently: 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. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming” (JSH 1:39, Mal. 3:6 variation).

The word “**turn**” *in this context* has ties to **remembering**. We are to **turn** our hearts as “children” - in **remembering “the promises [God] made to the Fathers.”** Again, it is **not** about being “sealed” *to them* or others as family members via geneological bloodlines. The “**fathers**” are special servants **who bring their people to God** (like King Benjamin in the book of Mosiah). God’s covenants with these “fathers” builds in a cumulative way for most all believers. **We are to remember them.** In this way our “hearts” are “sealed” or “turned” **to God** through the covenants He made with them. Brigham Young and others twisted this concept into *plural marriage sealings* in the temple endowment he latter modified. Especially relevant to us are those promises made to Enoch, Abraham, and **Joseph of Egypt** (through Manasseh and Ephraim his sons). **Their** promises are passed down to us through the word of God in scripture. Lehi and his posterity are the focus of the Book of Mormon. The Gentiles now reside on the same inherited Promised Land west (see these specific promises in JST Gen. 48 & 50 & Gen. 37, 49, Duet. 33 & those made to the differing “Josephs” in 2 Ne. 3). One primary purpose of the Book of Mormon - is to **reveal what these promises to the “fathers” were and are** – for those to whom the book was written – the Lamanite posterity of Joseph of Egypt through Lehi remaining on this land, along with Jews and Gentiles (see the Title Page of the Book of Mormon).

Not the covenant promises made to the follow “fathers”.

1. Adam Freedom to *choose* between the Tree of Life or the tree of knowledge of good and evil
2. Enoch Helped *remove death* from his people by bringing them to God. They were translated.
3. Noah Promise of no future destruction by water, instead the next cleansing will be by fire (the rainbow covenant). *Zion will return to Earth* when we do **God's will**, His commandments (JST Gen. 9:12).
4. Moses Given the higher law, but *the people rejected it*. They were then given the lesser law (the Ten Commandments) along with the Holy Days calendar, and more... *We have done the same thing*.
5. Abraham Promised numerous posterity (as the sands & stars), and that his posterity *will bless the whole earth through the priesthood* – which is service (**bringing others to Christ**), not sitting in the chief seats.
 - Isaac He is a type for Christ, was *righteous* (did not get a new name), nearly *sacrificed* & had only *one wife*.
 - Jacob The Earth is blessed through the covenant blessings given the house of Jacob (priesthood *service*).
 - Joseph The house of Israel will look to Joseph's posterity for *spiritual* salvation in the last-days (Manasseh [firstborn son - kingship & Ephraim [birthright son - priest]). Joseph provided *physical* salvation for Jacob's house in Egypt. *See these promises in JST Gen. 48 & 50 & Gen. 37, 49; Duet. 33 & 2 Ne. 3.*
6. David Kingship over Israel is eternal through David's posterity. *See 2 Samuel 7.*
7. **Christ** Our Creator & King is **the father of our salvation**. He provides **salvation** and **resurrection**.
8. Joseph Smith Restored many of "the plain and precious things" removed from the Bible in what the LORD called "the fullness of my scriptures" in the Book of Mormon & the whole JST Bible.

When "the fathers" come again *with* the LORD at His Second Coming, they will collectively "waste" or **burn up** the wicked, because of their great light and fiery glory. Those who have been born again in Christ will be sufficiently purified "to stand" or withstand this "**great and dreadful day**" of the LORD's coming judgment and return. Those coming with the LORD had the promise of eternal life *sealed* upon them in the LORD's role as "the Holy Spirit of Promise". They are called "fathers" (with a small "s") because their primary missions involved bringing their people to **salvation** in Christ the LORD, that they might be **redeemed by Him**, receiving the same promise of eternal life, which they did (which is *sealed* upon them **by Christ**). These "fathers" preached *the fullness* of the doctrine and gospel of Christ (chap. 7), bringing their people to **salvation** at Christ's hands (like King Benjamin), thus becoming "fathers" to their people via unconditional **love** in their service.

Too many today are under the Brighamite **control method of obedience to leaders and their laws**, rather than to God's better way, His *gentle persuasion* - in an *invitation* to **repent** and **come to Him**. It results in receiving real **salvation from Him** through the **love** revealed in His blood **atonement**. Charitable, loving service provides **power** in "**the priesthood promised Abraham's posterity**" (see D&C 121:34-46). Christ-like **love** in that service is the key to *real power*, not control and coercion based on **fear** (Satan's way in blood oaths). Real love casts out all fear (1 John 4:18).

These and other "fathers" (and mothers) now dwell in heaven and are fully **redeemed** or **saved** souls, having been purified by our LORD's redeeming blood. We can be redeemed too, via the development of a direct relationship with Christ the LORD. It does not happen because of religion, men's dead works, including temple attendance, but only through **the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ**, "the Father" of our salvation. Build a trusting **relationship** with Him (Lecture on Faith 2:55). **Repent** and come to **Him** in real love. The LORD said He employs **no servant at the gate** to heaven (see 2 Ne. 9:41). He alone is our **Redeemer**.

The lesser symbolic *physical* ordinances of men on earth point us to the greater reality of what God seals **spiritually** on us Himself. An "*anointing*" (or preparatory symbolic *ordinance* done by men on the earth) precedes the actual **sealing** of God's promised blessings upon us – by keeping **the New and Everlasting Covenant** with God. Aell such ar willing to *submit* to **God's** superior **will** and wisdom, in *love* of Him. Our lesser, preparatory, *physical* baptism in water by men on earth, precedes the greater, fiery, spiritual baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost by the God of heaven. It is the same with the symbolic temple endowment, in both the initiatory washing ordinance and the parting of the veil to God. Both are symbolic teaching tools that point to the real thing, done by God alone in His timing, wisdom, and way - as we seek His face and submit to His will.

May you be blessed in this pathway.

See also the paper, *The 40 Scriptures Given Joseph Smith on Rosb Hashanah of 1823*.