



## Where does true Biblical authority come from?

**Reason #4—Different Answer to an important question.** Another very important difference comes in the answer to question. When Latter-day Saints are asked where they get their *authority* they refer to their priesthoods. When Biblical Apostles are asked the same question they *never* refer to the Aaronic or Melchizedek priesthoods.

Acts 4:5-12 is a great example of the above. Peter and John had been *speaking* and *acting* for God, and the Jewish leaders did not like it. They asked the apostles; “By what power [or authority], or in whose name, have you done this?” Unlike LDS missionaries they made no reference to priesthood.

It is compelling that the New Testament writers *never* mention priesthood as their authority to speak and act for God. Paul’s writings commonly open like this, “Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.” (Romans 12:1 See also 1st and 2nd Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; also 1st and 2nd Peter 1:1) Paul never points to a priesthood authority.

If priesthood was the source of authority, the Apostles, and Bible writers would have mentioned it in their list of credentials somewhere, but they did not.

Biblical characters and Latter-day Saints have very different answers to the question, “where do you get your authority?”

**Reason #5—The LDS Church, and the Bible, have two very different views of the “Melchizedek” priesthood.** The difference is simple but glaring. The difference is this, the Bible does not speak of a “Melchizedek” priesthood for believers. Never!

The LDS church teaches that if you do not have the priesthood, you do not have the authority to speak, and act for God. Every worthy male in the LDS church is given this priesthood. This is interesting, considering the Bible only attaches the name “Melchizedek” to two people, Melchizedek himself, and Jesus. No one else!

When an Aaronic priest died, another in his bloodline, took his office. Christ’s priesthood was not like that. Christ had no successors, he did not pass on a “Melchizedek” priesthood to anyone. Hebrews 7:23-24 makes this point clear, read it carefully: “Also there were many priests [Aaronic priests], because they were prevented by death from continuing. But He [Jesus] because he continues forever, has an **unchangeable** priesthood. (NKJV)

The word “**unchangeable**” is very important. In the original Greek language, the word means, “**untransferrable.**” In other words, Jesus did not pass His priesthood to anybody. I will give \$100 to the first person who can find, in the Bible, someone Jesus gave a “Melchizedek” priesthood to.

I am often asked; “Where do you get your authority?” This falsely assumes there is a special priesthood God gives men before they can speak and act for Him.

In the New Testament God never required any LDS priesthood before man could act for Him. God simply commanded his people to speak and act. They had the choice to obey or disobey. For example, Jesus commanded the Apostles and empowered them to go and preach his message (Matthew 10:1-42). He did not say, “But before you go I must ordain you to be priests, or else you will have no authority.”

The Bible does mention that every believer has a “Royal priesthood” (1st Peter 2:9), and we are a “kingdom of priests” (Revelation 1:6). This does not mean a kingdom of “Aaronic and Melchizedek” priests. Again, \$100 to the first person who can find a Christian in the New Testament, who holds the Aaronic priesthood, or anyone Jesus gave a Melchizedek priesthood.

I do not claim to have any special authority. The authority is in the truth of the gospel message itself! If the message is the truth the message has authority. If the message is not the truth it does not have authority.

Jesus said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and earth.” Then He simply said to his disciples without any priesthood transfer, “GO...” (See Matthew 28:18-20) Where do I, or any Christian get their authority? From God who says, GO!

My LDS friend, I care very much about your future. As a concerned Christian I pray information from this flyer will birth a deep desire for further research.

If you desire eternal life now follow these inspired directions from the Apostle Paul.

“...confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you **will be saved.**” (Romans 10:9)

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## Reasonable Questions series

# WAS AUTHORITY LOST BECAUSE OF THE GREAT APOSTASY?

\$100 challenge inside...

by james hazelton

# \$100 CHALLENGE

If you are LDS you know how important *priesthood authority* is to your faith. I am a Christian who cares about you, and I'm excited you are taking time to read this tract.

I will give \$100 dollars to the first person that finds a Christian in the New Testament that holds the Aaronic priesthood in the Church age. Above that find one that holds the Melchizedek priesthood. My phone number and email are on the last page. I'm not mean, I'm not against you, I'm 100% for you.



## Bible verses often quoted to collect \$100

Bible verses that use words and phrases like power, appoint, send, receive, keys, gift, laying on of hands are often used to demonstrate that LDS priesthoods are in the Bible. Here are some examples that are quoted: Acts 8:18-24; 19:13-17; Mark 3:14; John 15:16; 17:18; 20:21-23; Matthew 16:19; 1st Timothy 4:14; 2nd Timothy 1:6 etc...

Take some time, open up your Bible, and examine each of the above scriptures. Ask yourself this question, "Is priesthood even mentioned in these verses?" Is it really fair to say these verses teach the LDS priesthoods when priesthood is not even mentioned? So far my \$100 is safe.

I am a Christian and some people call me Pastor James. Latter-day Saints have asked me, "Where do you get your authority to speak and act for God? Do you have the authority of the Aaronic, and Melchizedek priesthoods?" Hebrews 5:4 is often quoted which says, "And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron." They tell me Pastors do not have the priesthood authority, and conclude they can't speak and act for God.

You may be wondering what is the point of this tract? It is simple. The LDS *version* of priesthood authority is suspiciously absent in the Bible. Yes, the Bible speaks of an Aronic priesthood, and describes Christ's priesthood as "according to the order of Melchizedek." However, there is a serious problem.

Here is that problem. The LDS *descriptions* of these priesthoods do not match Biblical descriptions. It would be like me asking someone for a soccer ball and they give me a beach ball. Yes, they are both called balls, but their *detailed descriptions* are very different. Likewise, the LDS version of priesthood is very different from that found in the Bible.



**FIVE reasons the LDS description of priesthood is different from the Bible.**

## **Reason #1—Aaron's priesthood was part of the Old Covenant and not the New Covenant**

The LDS Church describes the Aaronic Priesthood as being for the Church today. However, the Bible describes it as being part of the Old Covenant, and not for today.

Hebrews 7:12 tells us the priesthood has "changed." What changed? The temporary Aaronic Priesthood stopped, and Christ's permanent Priesthood began.

Hebrews 7:18 teaches the Old Covenant (which includes the Aaronic Priesthood) has been "annulled."

Hebrews 8:13 reveals that the Old Covenant (which includes the Aaronic Priesthood) is "old" which means "obsolete" and is ready to "vanish away."

Again, the LDS Church describes this priesthood as being for today, yet the Bible describes it as having been changed, annulled, made obsolete and vanishing away.

You may feel this interpretation is incorrect. Find a Christian under the New Covenant in the Bible that holds this priesthood and I will give you \$100.



## **Reason #2—Wrong bloodlines.**

The LDS Church describes the Aaronic Priesthood as being available for any worthy male age 12 or older. However, the Bible is clear that you must be in the *direct bloodline* of Aaron.

"So you shall appoint Aaron and his sons, and they shall attend to their priesthood; but the outsider shall be put to death." (Numbers 3:10; Also see Exodus 27:21; 28:43 and 29:9)

Most Latter-day Saints claim to be of the bloodline of Ephraim, or Manasseh, not Levi (Aaron's dad). This is a very serious difference of descriptions.

Do you know the Bible teaches Jesus could not hold the Aaronic Priesthood? Really, it does! It was because He was of the wrong tribe. He was from the tribe of Judah, not Levi (Aaron's dad). (See Hebrews 7:11-14).

Again, \$100 to the first person who can find a believer in the Church age that holds this priesthood in the New Testament.

## **Reason #3—Different ordination process.**

The LDS Church describes this priesthood as being received in a simple ceremony. However, the ceremony described in the Bible is far from simple. It is complex, bloody, and very different from the LDS ceremonies.

In addition to the lineage requirement there was a specific ordination process. If you do not go through this process, as given in the Bible, you do not have the Aaronic priesthood. Read Exodus 29 and Leviticus 8. Here are some of the highlights:

1. Must be washed with water.
2. Must be anointed with oil.
3. Hands are to be laid on the head of a bull, not you!
4. The bull is to be killed, and it's blood poured on the alter.
5. A ram is to be killed, and it's blood sprinkled on the alter.
6. A second ram is to be killed, blood put on your right ear, right thumb, and right great toe.
7. For the next **seven days**, one bull and two lambs are to be offered daily.

The LDS and Biblical ordination processes are *very* different from each other.