

ine the other parts associated therewith. I will further read some more pertaining to this matter, which will be found in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, page 249, section 68.

“Ver. 14. There remain hereafter, in the due time of the Lord, other bishops to be set apart unto the church, to minister even according to the first;

“15. Wherefore they shall be high priests who are worthy, and they shall be appointed by the First Presidency of the Melchizedek Priesthood, except they be literal descendants of Aaron.

“16. And if they be literal descendants of Aaron they have a legal right to the bishopric, if they are the firstborn among the sons of Aaron;

“17. For the firstborn holds the right of the presidency over this priesthood, and the keys or authority of the same.”

Now, I desire to draw your attention to one thing very distinctly, that you may comprehend—“For the firstborn holds the right of presidency over this priesthood.” Over what Priesthood? The Bishopric. There is a Presidency in that Priesthood; and this firstborn of the literal descendants of Aaron would have a legal right to that Presidency. No man has a legal right to this office, to hold the keys of this Priesthood, except he be a literal descendant of Aaron, and the firstborn among his sons. Then, he would have a legal right to it. I could tell you the reason why, but it would take too long a time; and these things will be spoken of hereafter more fully. But I wish to speak of one or two leading principles pertaining to this subject; and as a High Priest of the Melchizedek Priesthood has authority to officiate in all the lesser offi-

ces, he may officiate in the office of Bishop, when no literal descendant of Aaron can be found, and it is stated, “And they shall be set apart under the hands of the First Presidency of the Melchizedek Priesthood.” To what authority? To what power? To what calling? To what Bishopric? To the Presiding Bishopric. This is what is here referred to:

“Ver. 20. And a literal descendant of Aaron, also, must be designated by this Presidency, and found worthy, and anointed, and ordained under the hands of this Presidency, otherwise they are not legally authorized to officiate in their priesthood.

“21. But, by virtue of the decree concerning their right of the priesthood descending from father to son, they may claim their anointing if at any time they can prove their lineage, or do ascertain it by revelation from the Lord under the hands of the above named Presidency.”

Without that the Presiding Bishop could not be set apart, because there is where the authority is placed.

“22. And again, no bishop or high priest who shall be set apart for this ministry shall be tried or condemned for any crime, save it be before the First Presidency of the church;”

In regard to what ministry? Why the Presidency of the Aaronic Priesthood. That is what is here spoken of.

“23. And inasmuch as he is found guilty before this Presidency, by testimony which cannot be impeached, he shall be condemned;

“24. And if he repent he shall be forgiven, according to the covenants and commandments of the church.”

Now, then, I will read you something more on the same subject,