

mandments of the church; and they have a right to officiate in all these offices of the church when there are no higher authorities present.

“13. The second priesthood is called the Priesthood of Aaron, because it was conferred upon Aaron and his seed, throughout all their generations.

“14. Why it is called the lesser priesthood is because it is an appendage to the greater, or the Melchizedek Priesthood, and has power in administering outward ordinances.

“15. The bishopric is the presidency of this priesthood, and holds the keys or authority of the same.” We will read a little further:

“16. No man has a legal right to this office, to hold the keys of this priesthood, except he be a literal descendant of Aaron.”

That is, he has no *legal* right; but in regard to certain conditions pertaining to this right, I do not propose to enter into an investigation this morning.

“Verse 17. But as a high priest of the Melchizedek Priesthood has authority to officiate in all the lesser offices, he may officiate in the office of bishop when no literal descendant of Aaron can be found, provided he is called and set apart and ordained unto this power by the hands of the Presidency of the Melchizedek Priesthood.”

To what power? To hold the keys of this Priesthood, and to preside over the Aaronic Priesthood.

“Verse 18. The power and authority of the higher, or Melchizedek Priesthood, is to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the church—

“19. To have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, to have the heavens opened unto them, to commune with the

general assembly and church of the Firstborn, and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the mediator of the new covenant.

“20. The power and authority of the lesser, or Aaronic Priesthood, is to hold the keys of the ministering of angels, and to administer in outward ordinances, the letter of the gospel, the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, agreeable to the covenants and commandments.

“21. Of necessity there are presidents, or presiding officers growing out of, or appointed of or from among those who are ordained to the several offices in these two priesthoods.

“22. Of the Melchizedek Priesthood, three Presiding High Priests, chosen by the body, appointed and ordained to that office, and upheld by the confidence, faith, and prayer of the church, form a quorum of the Presidency of the Church.

“23. The twelve traveling councilors are called to be the Twelve Apostles, or special witnesses of the name of Christ in all the world— thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling.

“24. And they form a quorum, equal in authority and power to the three presidents previously mentioned.

“25. The Seventy are also called to preach the gospel, and to be especial witnesses unto the Gentiles and in all the world—thus differing from other officers in the church in the duties of their calling.

“26. And they form a quorum, equal in authority to that of the Twelve special witnesses or Apostles just named.

“27. And every decision made by either of these quorums must be