

The Times of Restitution of All Things

By Elder David A. Bednar
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

De tider, da alt genoprettes

Ældste David A. Bednar
De Tolv Apostles Kvorum

April 2025 general conference

The most important and glorious “good news” is the message that the Lord Jesus Christ has restored His gospel and Church in the latter days.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized 195 years ago today, on April 6, 1830.

A small congregation of believers and friends gathered for this momentous and joyous occasion. A great outpouring of the Spirit blessed all in attendance as the ordinance of the sacrament was administered, the gift of the Holy Ghost was conferred, priesthood ordinations were performed, and truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ were preached.

In reestablishing His Church, the Lord designated by revelation 24-year-old Joseph Smith as its earthly leader: “a seer, a translator, a prophet, an apostle of Jesus Christ, an elder of the church through the will of God the Father, and the grace of your Lord Jesus Christ.”

I earnestly pray for the help of the Holy Ghost as we consider the importance and ongoing impact of this singular event in the history of the world.

The First Vision

The formal organization of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was the culmination of a sequence of miraculous experiences. The first of these experiences occurred 10 years earlier in upstate New York.

In the spring of 1820, a young boy named Joseph Smith went into the woods near his home to pray. He had questions regarding the salvation

De vigtigste og herligste »gode nyheder« er budskabet om, at Herren Jesus Kristus har gengivet sit evangelium og genoprettet sin kirke i de sidste dage.

Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige blev præcis i dag organiseret for 195 år siden, den 6. april 1830.

En lille skare af troende og venner havde samlet sig til denne betydningsfulde og glædelige begivenhed. En stor udgydelse af Ånden velsignede alle de tilstedeværende, da nadverordinancen blev forrettet, Helligåndsgaven blev overdraget, præstedømmeordinationer blev udført, og sandhederne i Jesu Kristi evangelium forkyndt.

Da Herren genoprettede sin kirke, udpegede han ved åbenbaring den 24-årige Joseph Smith som kirkens jordiske leder: Som »seer, oversætter, profet, Jesu Kristi apostel og ældste i kirken ved Gud Faderens vilje og jeres Herre Jesu Kristi nåde«.

Jeg beder inderligt om Helligåndens hjælp, mens vi tænker over vigtigheden og den vedvarende virkning af denne enestående begivenhed i verdenshistorien.

Det første syn

Den formelle organisering af Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige var kulminationen på en række mirakuløse begivenheder. Den første af disse fandt sted 10 år tidligere i den nordlige del af staten New York.

I foråret 1820 gik en ung dreng ved navn Joseph Smith ud i skoven i nærheden af sit hjem for at bede. Han havde spørgsmål vedrørende sin

of his soul, and he yearned “to know which of all the [churches] was right, that [he] might know which to join.” Joseph trusted that God would answer his prayer and direct him.

Please note that Joseph did not pray merely to know what was right. Rather, he prayed to know what was right so he could do what was right. Joseph asked in faith and was determined to act in accordance with the answers he received.

“In [response] to his [sincere] prayer, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to Joseph and inaugurated the ‘restitution of all things’ (Acts 3:21) as foretold in the Bible. In this vision, he learned that following the death of the original Apostles, Christ’s New Testament Church was lost from the earth.” Joseph Smith would be instrumental in restoring once again the doctrine, the authority, and the covenants and ordinances of the Savior’s ancient Church.

Joseph affirmed: “I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other—This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!”

Through this vision and subsequent supernal experiences, Joseph Smith came to understand that God and Jesus Christ knew him as an individual, cared about his eternal salvation, and had a mission for him to perform. He also learned vital lessons about the attributes, character, and perfections of the Godhead—and that the Father and the Son are separate and distinct Beings. Jesus Christ is the literal Son of God in spirit and in the flesh.

Joseph Smith declared that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ are corporeal beings. He said, “The Father has a body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s; the Son also; but the Holy Ghost has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit.”

I testify the visitation of the Father and the Son to Joseph Smith was the initiating event in the grand “restoration of all things spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets since the world began.”

The Book of Mormon

The second in the sequence of miraculous experiences that led to the formal organization of

sjæls frelse, og han længtes inderligt efter at finde ud af, »hvilken af alle [kirkerne] der havde ret, så [han] kunne vide, hvilken en [han] skulle slutte [sig] til.« Joseph stolede på, at Gud ville besvare hans bøn og vejlede ham.

Læg mærke til, at Joseph ikke blot bad for at få at vide, hvad der var rigtigt. Nej, han bad om at få at vide, hvad der var rigtigt, så han kunne gøre det rigtige. Joseph adspurgte i tro og var fast besluttet på at handle i overensstemmelse med de svar, han modtog.

»Som svar på hans [oprigtige] bøn viste Gud Faderen og hans Søn, Jesus Kristus, sig for Joseph og indledte den tid, hvor »alt det genoprettes« (ApG 3:21), som det er forudsagt i Bibelen. Af dette syn lærte han, at Kristi kirke i Det Nye Testamente var gået tabt på jorden efter de oprindelige apostles død. «Joseph Smith skulle være et redskab til endnu engang at gengive læren, myndigheden, pagterne og ordinancerne i Frelserens oprindelige kirke.

Joseph sagde: »[Jeg så] to personer, hvis glans og herlighed trodser enhver beskrivelse, stående over mig i luften. Den ene af dem talte til mig, kaldte mig ved navn og sagde, mens han pegede på den anden – Det er min elskede Søn. Hør ham!«

Gennem dette syn og efterfølgende himmelske tilkendegivelser lærte Joseph Smith, at Gud og Jesus Kristus kendte ham som individ, bekymrede sig om hans evige frelse og havde en opgave, som han skulle udføre. Han lærte også vigtige lektier om Guddommens egenskaber, karakter og fuldkommenhed – og at Faderen og Sønnen er adskilte og særskilte væsener. Jesus Kristus er bogstavelig talt Guds Søn i ånd og kød.

Joseph Smith erklærede, at vor himmelske Fader og Jesus Kristus er legemlige væsener. Han sagde: »Faderen har et legeme af kød og knogler ligeså håndgribeligt som menneskets; Sønnen ligeså; men Helligånden har ikke et legeme af kød og knogler, men er en person, der består af ånd.«

Jeg vidner om, at Faderens og Sønnens besøg hos Joseph Smith var den igangsættende begivenhed i den storslåede genoprettelse »af alt, hvorom der ved alle de hellige profeters mund, siden verden begyndte, er blevet talt«.

Mormons Bog

Den anden i rækken af mirakuløse begivenheder, der førte til den formelle organisering af

the Savior's restored Church was the translation and coming forth of the Book of Mormon.

“Joseph Smith was given the gift and power of God to translate an ancient record: the Book of Mormon—Another Testament of Jesus Christ. ... This sacred text include[s] an account of the personal ministry of Jesus Christ among people in the Western Hemisphere soon after His Resurrection. [The Book of Mormon] teaches of life's purpose and explains the doctrine of Christ, which is central to that purpose. As a companion scripture to the Bible, the Book of Mormon testifies that all human beings are sons and daughters of a loving Father in Heaven, that He has a divine plan for our lives, and that His Son, Jesus Christ, speaks today as well as in days of old.”

As members of the Savior's restored Church, “We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.” The Book of Mormon is another testament of Jesus Christ, confirms the truthfulness of the Bible, and restores plain and precious truths that were lost from the Bible.

Priesthood Restored

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints teaches that the original Church established by the Savior, with its divine authority, doctrine, and covenants and ordinances, was lost from the earth. As part of the prophesied restoration of all things in the latter days, ancient prophets and apostles personally conferred priesthood authority upon Joseph Smith and committed priesthood keys to him. This was the third in the sequence of miraculous experiences that led to the formal organization of the Savior's restored Church.

Priesthood authority allows God's servants to “represent [Him] and act in His name.” “Priesthood keys are the authority to direct the use of the priesthood on behalf of God's children.”

Under the direction of the Father and the Son, the resurrected John the Baptist restored, in 1829, the authority to baptize by immersion for the remission of sins. In that same year, three of the original Twelve Apostles—Peter, James, and John—restored the apostleship and additional priesthood authority and keys.

Six years after the formal organization of the Church, in the Kirtland Temple, Moses, Elias,

Frelserens genoprettede kirke, var oversættelsen og fremkomsten af Mormons Bog.

»Joseph Smith blev givet Guds gave og kraft til at oversætte en gammel optegnelse: Mormons Bog: Endnu et vidnesbyrd om Jesus Kristus ... Denne hellige tekst indeholder en beretning om Jesu Kristi personlige virke blandt folket på den vestlige halvkugle kort tid efter hans opstandelse. [Mormons Bog] lærer os om formålet med livet og forklarer Kristi lære, som er helt central for dette formål. Mormons Bog vidner som et helligt sidestykke til Bibelen om, at alle mennesker er sønner og døtre af en kærlig Fader i himlen, at han har en guddommelig plan for os, og at hans Søn, Jesus Kristus, taler i dag såvel som i gamle dage.«

Som medlemmer af Frelserens genoprettede kirke tror vi på, »at Bibelen er Guds ord, for så vidt som den er rigtigt oversat; vi tror også, at Mormons Bog er Guds ord.« Mormons Bog er endnu et vidnesbyrd om Jesus Kristus, den bekræfter Bibelens sandhed og gengiver enkle og dyrebare sandheder, som var gået tabt i Bibelen.

Præstedømmets gengivelse

Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige lærer os, at den oprindelige kirke, der blev oprettet af Frelseren, med dens guddommelige myndighed, læresætninger, pagter og ordinancer, gik tabt. Som en del af den profeterede genoprettelse af alt i de sidste dage overdrog fordums profeter og apostle i egen person præstedømmemyndighed til Joseph Smith og betroede ham præstedømmenøgler. Dette var den tredje i rækken af mirakuløse begivenheder, der førte til den formelle organisering af Frelserens genoprettede kirke.

Præstedømmemyndighed tillader Guds tjenere at »repræsentere [ham] og handle i hans navn.« »Præstedømmenøgler er myndigheden til at lede anvendelsen af præstedømmet på vegne af Guds børn.«

Under Faderens og Sønnens vejledning gengav den opstandne Johannes Døber i 1829 myndigheden til at døbe ved nedsenkning for syndernes forladelse. Samme år gengav tre af de oprindelige tolv apostle – Peter, Jakob og Johannes – apostelembedet og yderligere præstedømmemyndighed og -nøgler.

I templet i Kirtland overdrog Moses, Elias og profeten Elias, seks år efter den formelle organi-

and Elijah committed to Joseph the additional authority necessary to accomplish God's work in the latter days.

Moses committed the keys of the gathering of Israel.

Elias committed the dispensation of the gospel of Abraham, including the restoration of the Abrahamic covenant.

Elijah committed the keys of the sealing power, providing the authority that allows ordinances performed on earth to be binding in eternity, such as joining families together in eternal relationships that transcend death.

The Church of Jesus Christ Is Organized

As Joseph Smith translated the Book of Mormon, he received revelations indicating that the Church of Jesus Christ would be reestablished. But the Lord instructed Joseph not to organize His Church immediately. Rather, "by the spirit of prophecy and revelation," the Lord revealed to Joseph "the precise day ... [he] should proceed to organize His Church once [again] upon the earth."

The Church was organized in proper sequence only after the restoration of the priesthood and the publication of the Book of Mormon. The first copies of the Book of Mormon became available on March 26, 1830, and the Church was formally organized on April 6.

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints ... is Christ's New Testament Church restored. This Church is anchored in the perfect life of its chief cornerstone, Jesus Christ, and in His infinite Atonement and literal Resurrection. Jesus Christ has once again called Apostles and has given them priesthood authority. He invites all of us to come unto Him and His Church, to receive the Holy Ghost, the ordinances of salvation, and to gain enduring joy."

The Dispensation of the Fulness of Times

The appearance of the Father and the Son to Joseph Smith, the translation and coming forth of the Book of Mormon, and the restoration of priesthood authority and keys were necessary prerequisites to the organization of the Lord's restored Church 195 years ago today.

In the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel

sering af Kirken, den yderligere myndighed, der var nødvendig for at udføre Guds værk i de sidste dage, til Joseph.

Moses overdrog nøglerne til Israels indsamling.

Elias overdrog Abrahams evangeliums udde-
ling, herunder gengivelsen af Abrahams pagt.

Profeten Elias overdrog nøglerne til be-
seglingsmagten, som gav den myndighed, der
tillader, at ordinancer, der udføres på jorden, er
bindende i evigheden, som f.eks. at forene famili-
er i evige forhold, der rækker ud over døden.

Jesu Kristi Kirke organiseres

Mens Joseph Smith oversatte Mormons Bog, modtog han åbenbaringer, der indikerede, at Jesu Kristi Kirke ville blive genoprettet. Men Herren instruerede Joseph om ikke straks at organisere sin kirke. I stedet åbenbarede Herren »ved profetiens og åbenbarelsens ånd« for Joseph »nøjagtigt den dag, på hvilken [han] ... skulle skride til på ny at organisere [Herrens] kirke her på jorden«.

I henhold til den rette rækkefølge blev Kirken først organiseret efter præstedømmets gengivelse og udgivelsen af Mormons Bog. De første eksemplarer af Mormons Bog blev tilgængelige den 26. marts 1830, og Kirken blev formelt organiseret den 6. april.

»Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige ... er Kristi genoprettede kirke fra Det Nye Testamente. Denne kirke er forankret i sin hovedhjørnesten, Jesus Kristus, og hans fuldkomne liv, hans uendelige forsoning og bogstavelige opstandelse. Jesus Kristus har atter kaldet apostle og har givet dem præstedømmemyndighed. Han indbyder os alle til at komme til sig og sin kirke, til at modtage Helligånden, frelsens ordinancer og til at opnå vedvarende glæde.«

Tidernes fyldest uddeling

Faderens og Sønnens tilsynkomst for Joseph Smith, oversættelsen og fremkomsten af Mormons Bog og gengivelsen af præstedømmets myndighed og nøgler var nødvendige forudsætninger for organiseringen af Herrens genoprettede kirke, denne dag for 195 år siden.

I Det Gamle Testamente tydede profeten Da-

interpreted a dream about a stone that would be cut out of a mountain without hands and fill the entire earth. One year after the organization of the Church, the Lord instructed Joseph Smith that the keys of the kingdom of God had again been “committed unto man on the earth” and the “gospel [of Jesus Christ would] roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands.”

I testify: The Lord is fulfilling His promise. The Savior’s restored Church is being established throughout the world and is the instrument by which God will “gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.”

The Lord’s latter-day work “is a cause that has interested the people of God in every age; it is a theme upon which prophets, priests and kings have dwelt with peculiar delight; they have looked forward with joyful anticipation to the day in which we live; and fired with heavenly and joyful anticipations they have sung and written and prophesied of this our day.”

In this greatest and last of all gospel dispensations, “a whole and complete and perfect union, and welding together of dispensations, and keys, and powers, and glories should take place, and be revealed from the days of Adam even to the present time. And not only this, but those things which never have been revealed from the foundation of the world ... shall be revealed ... in this, the dispensation of the fulness of times.”

The Prophet Joseph further explained, “All the ordinances and duties that ever have been required by the Priesthood, under the directions and commandments of the Almighty in any of the dispensations, shall all be had in the last dispensation, ... bringing to pass the restoration spoken of by the mouth of all the Holy Prophets.”

Promises and Testimony

I have attempted to summarize basic elements of the most important and glorious “good news” any person anywhere in the world can ever receive—the message that the Lord Jesus Christ has restored His gospel and Church in the latter days.

I invite all to learn about and prove this message. I promise that individuals “who prayerfully study the message of the Restoration and act in faith will be blessed [through the power of the

niel en drøm om en sten, der ikke ved menneske-hånd ville blive revet løs af et bjerg og fylde hele jorden. Et år efter Kirkens organisering instruerede Herren Joseph Smith i, at nøglerne til Guds rige igen var blevet »overdraget til menneskene på jorden«, og at »[Jesu Kristi evangelium skulle] rulle frem til jordens ender, ligesom den sten, der uden hænder er blevet hugget ud af bjerget«.

Jeg vidner om, at Herren opfylder sit løfte. Frelserens genoprettede kirke bliver oprettet over hele verden og er det redskab, hvorved Gud vil »sammenfatte alt i Kristus, både det himmelske og det jordiske«.

Herrens værk i de sidste dage »er en sag, der har interesseret Guds folk i alle tidsaldre. Det er et emne, som profeter, præster og konger har set på med særlig fryd. De har med frydefuld forventning set hen til den tid, vi lever i, og opfyldt af himmelske og glade forventninger har de sunget, skrevet og profeteret om denne vor dag.«

I denne største og sidste af alle evangeliske uddelinger skal »en hel og fuldstændig og fuldkommen forening og sammenføjning af uddelinger og nøgler og magter og herligheder [finde] sted og [blive] åbenbaret fra Adams dage helt til nærværende tid. Og ikke alene dette, men det, som aldrig efter verdens grundlæggelse har været åbenbaret ... skal blive åbenbaret ... i denne, tidernes fyldes uddeling.«

Profeten Joseph forklarede desuden: »Alle ordinancer og pligter, som nogensinde er blevet krævet af præstedømmet under den Almægtiges ledelse og befaling i nogen af uddelingerne, skal alle findes i den sidste uddeling ... og derved bringe den gengivelse i stand, som der er talt om ved alle de hellige profeters mund.«

Løfter og vidnesbyrd

Jeg har forsøgt at sammenfatte grundlæggende elementer i de vigtigste og herligste »gode nyheder«, som nogen som helst i hele verden nogensinde kan modtage – budskabet om, at Herren Jesus Kristus har gengivet sit evangelium og genoprettet sin kirke i de sidste dage.

Jeg opfordrer alle til at lære om dette budskab og til at afprøve det. Jeg afgiver løfte om, at de, »der bønsumt studerer genoprettelsens budskab og handler i tro, [gennem Helligåndens

Holy Ghost] to gain their own witness of its divinity and of its purpose to prepare the world for the promised Second Coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.”As you pray earnestly with the expectation to both receive and act upon an answer from God, as did young Joseph Smith, your capacity to recognize and respond to that divine witness will be increased.

I witness that God, the Eternal Father, is our Father. I testify and witness that Jesus Christ is the Father’s Beloved Son and His Only Begotten in the flesh. He is our Savior and Redeemer.

And I joyfully witness that the Father and the Son appeared to the boy Joseph Smith, thus initiating the Restoration of the gospel of Jesus Christ in the latter days. The Book of Mormon is another testament of Jesus Christ and contains the word of God. Priesthood authority to represent the Savior and act in His name again is found on the earth. And The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is Christ’s New Testament Church restored. I bear my sure witness that all of these things are true in the sacred name of the Lord Jesus Christ, amen.

kraft] vil blive velsignet med at få deres eget vidnesbyrd om dens guddommelighed og dens formål med at forberede verden på vor Herre og Frelzers, Jesu Kristi, andet komme«.Når I oprigtigt beder med forventning om både at modtage og handle på et svar fra Gud, som den unge Joseph Smith gjorde, vil jeres evne til at genkende og handle på dette guddommelige vidnesbyrd blive forøget.

Jeg vidner om, at Gud, den evige Fader, er vores Fader. Jeg vidner om og bevidner, at Jesus Kristus er Faderens elskede Søn og hans Enbårne i kødet. Han er vor Frelser og Forløser.

Og jeg vidner fuld af glæde om, at Faderen og Sønnen viste sig for drengen Joseph Smith og derved påbegyndte gengivelsen og genoprettelsen af Frelserens evangelium i de sidste dage. Mormons Bog er endnu et vidnesbyrd om Jesus Kristus, og den indeholder Guds ord. Præstedømmemyndighed til at repræsentere Frelseren og handle i hans navn findes igen på jorden. Og Jesu Kristi Kirke af Sidste Dages Hellige er Kristi kirke fra Det Nye Testaments tid, som er blevet genoprettet. Jeg bærer mit sikre vidnesbyrd om, at alt dette er sandt i Herren Jesu Kristi hellige navn. Amen.