## God's Blessings Through Priesthood

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The purpose of this paper is not to discuss priesthood responsibilities, but rather to focus on the intended blessing for which priesthood have been set apart.

We are a blessed people. God has granted to us life, and He desires to bless us abundantly in our lives. In the creation story God revealed these words to Moses, "And I, God, said unto my Only Begotten, which was with me from the beginning, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and it was so. And I, God, said, "Let them have dominion over the fishes of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. And I, God, created man in mine own image, in the image of mine Only Begotten created I him; male and female created I them. And I God blessed them, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it..." (Gen. 1:27-30)

From the beginning God has blessed His creation of man and woman. The knowledge and testimony of God's blessings will take an eternity to share with one another, and there are numberless volumes of writings to explain and share God's blessings as well. For the purposes of this paper I wish to focus specifically on the blessings of Priesthood that scripture tells us God wishes to bestow on man and woman through the Priesthood. I cannot adequately do justice to this subject so I will only share a part on the blessings and the purposes of Priesthood and how God has "ordained" the Priesthood to be earthly messengers and servants. Those chosen to serve in the Priesthood are to bless the people on behalf of God and Jesus Christ. One of the most significant ways to do this is through the ordinances of the Church.

Ordinances take place in one's life at very significant times in the life of a believer. Within the Restoration there are several such ordinances. One purpose of an ordinance is to bring blessing to the participants of the ordinance. Two of those ordinances have the word blessing included in their name – Baby Blessing, and Patriarchal Blessing. However, it is not difficult to see God's blessing in all of the ordinances – baptismal blessing in water and spirit, marriage blessing, Sacrament blessing, ordination blessing, etc. All of the ordinances are administered to the people by the Priesthood. The men of the Priesthood are called to stand between heaven and earth to be the messengers of God that are called to reveal His desire to bless His creation. However, God does not limit blessings to be solely through Priesthood. God has all the resources of heaven and earth at His command.

What we know through the Scriptures, our personal testimonies, and in other ways is that God desires to bless us. We can read this clearly in the Scriptures. There is no greater testimony of this then by the death of Jesus Christ at the cross. Jesus died taking our sins upon Himself, that we might be blessed unto eternal life and be with God forever. In order to be with God and

Christ we need to respond to them in faith and service. God has provided for blessings to be with us throughout our lives if we will choose Him. Opportunities to be in the company of God and heaven come to us often through ordinances. As Arthur Oakman said "ordinances give us the feel of righteousness." The Lord has commissioned His priesthood to bless the people. Not only do we see this in "the Great Commission", but we see it in the baptismal prayer, "Having been commissioned of Jesus Christ, I baptize {bless} you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." (D&C 17:21c)

We can be blessed through friends, the Church, and many other ways. One of the most significant ways is through the Priesthood. The Priesthood have been called to bring blessing to the people as a servant of Jesus Christ. I would like to give Scriptural support of how this is to be done by the authority of the priesthood.

The Aaronic Priesthood may bless the children of God such as the case we find in Numbers 6:22-27, "And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto Aaron and unto his sons, saying, On this wise ye shall bless the children of Israel, saying unto them, The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee; The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace. And they shall put my name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them." We know also from Latter-Day revelation that the Aaronic Priesthood are to go into the homes and bless the families and its members. (D&C 17:10-11)

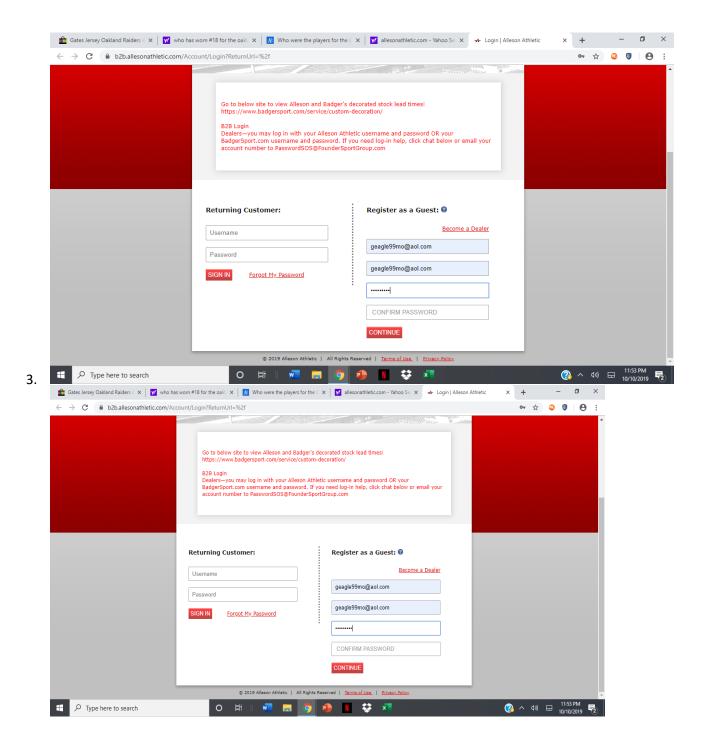
The Melchisedec Priesthood are to give blessing in this manner, "The power and authority... to hold the keys of all the spiritual blessings of the Church; to have the privilege of receiving the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven; to have the heavens opened unto them; to commune with the general assembly and church of the Firstborn; and to enjoy the communion and presence of God the Father, and Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant." (D&C 104:9a).

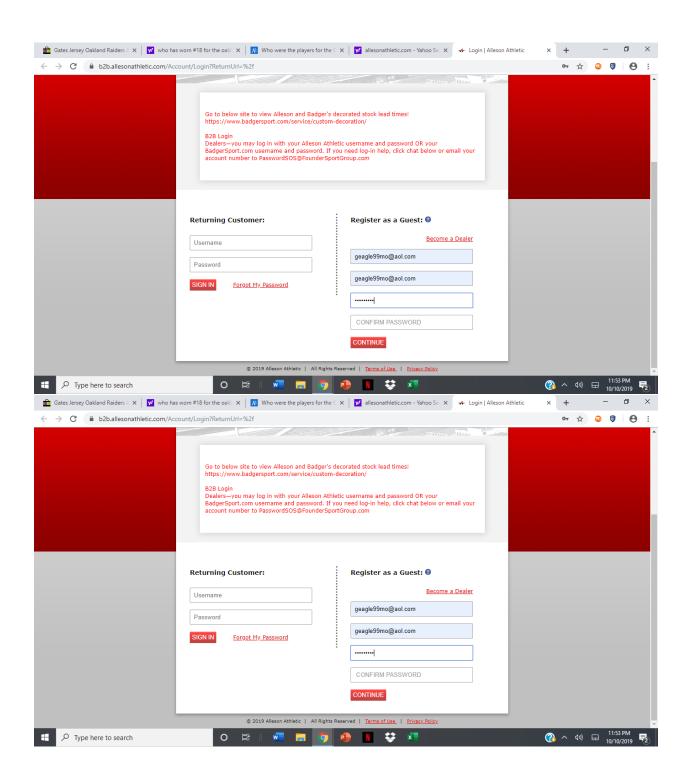
The Lord desires to bless his creation. We see this repeated throughout the Scriptures. He gives this promise and blessing in D&C 22:23, "there is no end to my works, neither to my words; for this is my work and my glory, to bring to pass the immortality, and eternal life of man." The fulfilled promises of God are the outcomes of His blessing. Our Father blesses us to accomplish His work and then blesses us to see that work accomplished if we are obedient to Him. This becomes clear through Galatians 3:14, "That the **blessing** of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that they might receive the **promise** of the Spirit through faith." We sing the hymn, Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. All blessings come from God through his Son Jesus Christ. The Priesthood are called to be instruments for these blessings to flow to his creation.

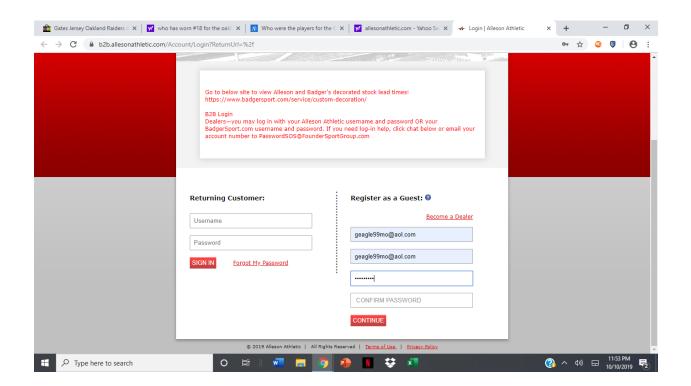
The Lord has spoken throughout all of the ages of His plan for salvation involving the priesthood. D&C 83: 3c, "Therefore, in the ordinances thereof the power of godliness is manifest; and without the ordinances thereof, and the authority of the priesthood, the power of godliness is not manifest unto men in the flesh; for without this, no man can see the face of God, even the Father, and live."

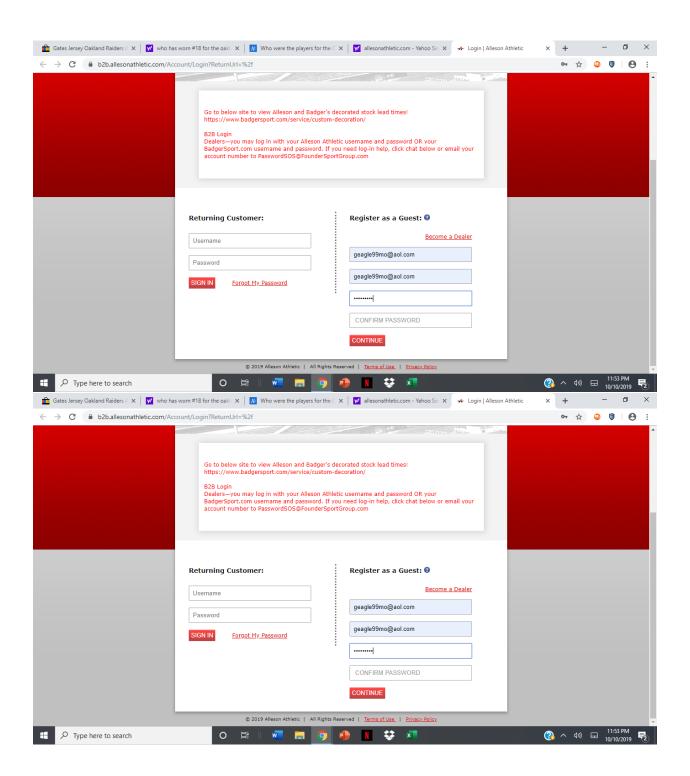
The Scriptures are filled with blessing. The Sermon on the Mount is filled with the phrase, "Blessed are they...". There are at least two major themes for blessings being bestowed.

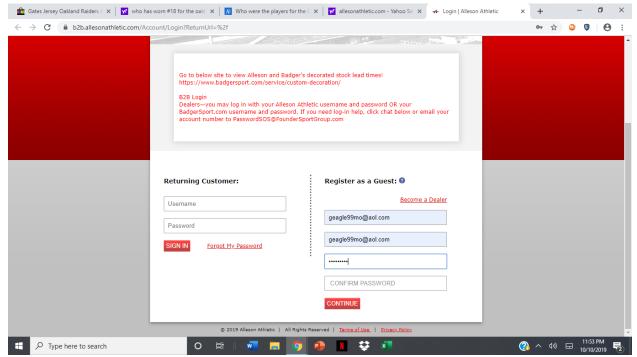
- 1. Blessing is a public declaration of a favored status with God. Abraham was blessed in Genesis 12:2. Emma Smith was blessed in D&C 24. Each was blessed for a divine purpose. Many others have blessings recorded in the Scriptures.
- 2. The blessing endows power for prosperity and success. Before God called Enoch's people Zion, He said this "And the Lord blessed the land, and they were blessed upon the mountains, and upon the high places, and did flourish" (Gen. 7:22).











Anyone taking upon himself a priesthood office has an accountability to the Lord for giving faithful service in that office. In D&C 83:6g we find there is an eternal covenant made between God and that man that is ordained. This Scripture states, "Therefore, all those who receive the priesthood receive this oath and covenant of my Father, which he cannot break, neither can it be moved; but whoso breaketh this covenant, after he hath received it, and altogether turneth therefrom, shall not have forgiveness of sins in the world nor in the world to come."

