

The Brazil Faction Secretly Incorporated a New Latter Day Saint Church Six Months Ago

By David M. Price. February 5, 2019

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Declaration by Joseph Smith Jr. Disproves the Brazil Faction's Claim to Divinity

Joseph Smith Jr. declared that when angels restored the priesthood and ordained him and others in 1829, those things could never again happen upon the earth. Joseph said that if anyone ever again claimed (as have Mauricio Berger and Joseph F. Smith) that an angel had ordained them or restored the priesthood, they would either be liars or deceived by "an angel of the devil." (see p. 17).

ALSO

The Brazil Faction continues to be duplicitous, to produce revelations that are out of harmony with previous prophecies, to trifle with sacred ordinances, and to violate scripture and the teachings of Joseph Smith Jr.

—They covertly named and incorporated a new church many months ago and have not been forthcoming about those acts (see p. 1).

—A recent revelation by Mauricio declared that both he and Joseph F. would be "prophet, seer and revelator" of their new church (see p. 2).

—Their way of practicing the ordinance of washing of feet violates scripture and presents Mauricio as president of the church (see pp. 14–15).

—They say Atonic priests from all Restoration churches are valid, but only the Melchisedec ministers that they have ordained are valid. So, while many Saints will need to be rebaptized, all must be reconfirmed (see pp. 3–10)!

On March 18, 2018, the faction's eight witnesses allowed us to be reassured that their only "end game" was to revere shared truths in unity with others—that *none* of them were "starting or organizing a Church," that "no one was asking for money," and that, "no one claims to be a prophet" (especially Mauricio Berger or Joseph F. Smith).¹

Yet a state of Missouri website reveals that just four months later, on July 19, 2018, witnesses Joseph F. Smith, Tyler S. Crowell (who witness Bob Moore specifically called on to reassure us in the video cited above), and Roberta G. Chinnery, named and incorporated a new church, with Roberta empowered as that new church's "Registered Agent."²

In spite of reassurances in March 2018, that "no one was asking for money," their website (thecauseofzion.org) now actively solicits donations. And in spite of reassurances that "no one claims to be a prophet," both Mauricio and Joseph F. have been ordained to that office (see Endnote 6). Indeed, Roberta now identifies herself as, "Assistant to the Prophet."³ Her position is evidently very important, for according to copyright filings, Roberta (and Melva Cackler) are listed as the "authors" of the *Sealed Book of Mormon* they have received from Mauricio, which the faction plans to publish.⁴

They have named their church: *Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints*. Note how similar that wording is to the official name of the LDS Church, *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*. The name of their new church differs from that of the existing LDS Church only in that they have dropped the first word, "The," dropped the hyphen between "latter" and "day," and changed the first letter in the word "day" from lower case to upper case.

As of the date of this report, it has been over *six months* since the government granted the faction corporate church status under their new name. Yet, they have not publically announced it and, in fact, have concealed the acts of naming and incorporating their new church even when asked about it. For example, on August 27, 2018, they posted the following notice on their website (which can still be viewed as of the date of this report):

Church Name

Posted on August 27, 2018

Some ask to what church Joseph F Smith has been ordained Prophet, Seer, Revelator and will be sustained the President. . . . *The church name has not been solidified at present.* ⁵ (italics added)

From the dates entered on public records (see Endnote 2), it is obvious that the faction had in fact “solidified” their new church name by incorporating their new church nearly two months prior to their above post, and a half year prior to the printing of this report.

Mauricio and Joseph Are Now Both to Be Prophet, Seer, and Revelator

In December 2018, the faction published a more complete version of the October 29, 2018, ordination prayer and “revelation” of Mauricio ordaining Joseph F. to high priest and the presidency. That revised version reveals that while ordaining Joseph F. (to the number two spot, like unto Hyrum Smith), Mauricio simultaneously gave a “revelation” that they were now *both* to be prophets, seers, and revelators to the church. That differed from the reassurances in March that “Mauricio is not a prophet,” and that “no one claims to be a prophet” (see Endnote 1).

Mauricio’s “revelation” evidently revealed that he is now allowed to impose such radical changes because he has “been confirmed by the hands of an angel as High Priest holding the keys of the kingdom . . . brought back again . . . for the restoring of His Church.” Mauricio’s surprise announcement that he had been *ordained by an angel*, and his self-promotion to the presidency (which he declared during his surprise ordination of Joseph F.), was presumptuous. Similarly, during Joseph’s ordination, Mauricio pronounced that God approved of these big changes so things “may proceed according to My servant Maurice.” Here is their revised version of Joseph’s ordination in which these things are disclosed:

Ordination of Joseph F Smith – High Priest & President of the High Priesthood

I, Maurício Berger,

Having been confirmed by the hands of an angel as High Priest holding the keys of the kingdom of God on earth, brought back again among the sons of men for the purpose of restoring His Church in Zion and in the world.

I hereby consecrate and appoint Joseph Frederick Smith to the Presidency of the High Priesthood of *the Church (in Zion).*

(Revelation received through Mauricio A Berger, 10.29.2018)

And from this moment forward, Prophet, Seer and Revelator of My Church, *as well as My servant Maurice Artur Berger.* Receive, therefore, *the keys* corresponding to this call, *so that it may proceed according to My servant Maurice.* These *keys*, who qualify him as High Priest in the Presidency of My Church in Zion and in the world, by which he may ask and receive,

open and close, and be crowned with the same blessing and glory and honor and priesthood and gifts which in past times were placed on the head of my servant Hyrum Smith. Amen.

(slight editing of this post has occurred to the name of the church only until such time as the name is announced.)⁶ (italics added)

Mauricio Wrote Two Different Versions of the Prophetic “Message” from “Moroni” Instructing Everyone to Be Rebaptized and/or Reconfirmed

On December 16, 2018, the faction posted a prophetic “message” that Mauricio channeled through the entity they insist is the angel “Moroni.” Then, just two days later on December 18, they posted *another* version of that same “message” with major subtractions and additions to their original version.

Of interest is that in the second version they renamed the message (which both changed its primary audience, as well as its supposed primary focus), removed some controversial and confusing “words of Moroni” they originally had in quotes, and also added new text specifically empowering Joseph F. Smith (and Mauricio) to be the sole authorities through whom the Holy Ghost and priesthood callings are dispensed. Also (as shall be shown), to convince everyone that they all must be rebaptized and/or reconfirmed, they even quote from a book written by Utah LDS Apostle (1910–1970) and President (1970–1972) Joseph Fielding Smith Jr.!

Mauricio’s revised revelation tried to correct some of “Moroni” and Mauricio’s mistakes, added and deleted entire sections, changed the meaning and focus of several key passages, and urged readers to believe the controversial writings of one of the Presidents of the Utah LDS Church.

Below is a combined rendition of both versions of Mauricio’s December 2018 “message” of “the words of Moroni.” Both versions of their originals (including grammar and punctuation errors) were copied and made into a combined version with the following clarifiers:

- We, Price Publishing Company (PPC), removed all of their original italics and underlines, but left in their spelling and punctuation errors.
- We added strikethrough marks to their words from their first version that they *deleted* in their second version.
- We added underlines to their words that did not appear in their first version that they *added* to their second version.
- We added our comments in indented, unbolded, italicized text, and placed them in brackets:

12.16.2018 Message to the Church in Zion

Minor Priesthood Authority

In the words of Moroni, a person who was baptized by a minor priesthood authority in the various branches of the restoration does not need baptism again, but needs to receive the confirmation or gift of the Holy Spirit ~~Ghost from April 6, 2019~~, by hands of Joseph Frederick Smith, or of elders called by him now. Then when his name is their names are confirmed as a member of the Church and she then in 06 april of 2019 then – they becomes a member of the church that will be restructured on this day. That is, even if the baptism is from another branch of the restoration, Moroni states that it has validity, because the Lord did not abandon the believers of the Book of Mormon, but only took away the Greater Priesthood. “So he can be

confirmed a member of the Church.” But if they can not be confirmed as receiving having received baptism by the authority of the Aaronic priesthood, then there must be a new baptism, followed by confirmation. There will be those who are already baptized that will choose to rename themselves (Rebaptize) as members of church restructured.

[PPC Note: As previously stated, marked-out words are those they deleted from their first version that do not appear in their second version. Underlined words are those that do not appear in their first version, which they added to their second version.

The words in quotes evidently denote that “Moroni” supposedly spoke those exact words to Mauricio. In the first version, Mauricio definitely called for people to be both rebaptized and renamed, but his second version indicates that the phrase “rename themselves” merely refers to being rebaptized into a restructured church. That awkward change really does not make sense and seems particularly odd since Restoration believers are not baptized into the Church, but are baptized for the remission of sins and only become full members of the Church upon confirmation. Is it possible that Mauricio received such negative feedback after releasing the first version of his revelation that—forty-eight hours later—he made an awkward attempt to change the meaning of the phrase “rename themselves”?

While renaming is a ritual unknown in most churches, it is practiced by Catholics at baptism/confirmation/first communion (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_name). It is also practiced by members of the Utah LDS Church during their Temple Endowment ceremonies. Mormons are ritually washed, anointed, and presented with their sacred temple garments, and then given a secret new name (see <http://www.ldsendowment.org/initiatory.html>). Since Mauricio was originally Catholic and then became LDS, it should come as no surprise that the “messages” he receives from “Moroni” include the false teachings of those churches.]

In the scriptures we have the example of Paul who, finding about 12 disciples of John the Baptist who were already baptized, baptized them again and gave them the Holy Ghost, since they had not received it before (Acts 19: 1-7).

Although the text of Acts 19: 1-7 may be controversial to the understanding of some scholars of theology, it can not be ignored that the New Testament distinguishes between the Baptism effected by John, who called to repentance in the name of God (The Father) and, as precursor of the Messiah, John announced Jesus (the Son).

In contrast, the baptism commissioned by Jesus involves the name of the Father, the Son and the “Holy Ghost”.

In other words, the apostle Paul is saying to the disciples of John, who had not yet heard of the Holy Spirit (which occurred after Pentecost), but only about the Messiah who would come after John, who now should receive baptism of Christ, which corresponds to the order given by Jesus in Matthew 28: 18-19 Inspired Version.

This is clearer still when one reads the text of Acts 18: 24 and 28 (Inspired Version) in which Apollos knows and preaches fervently about Jesus Christ (as John taught about Jesus), but Apollos knowing only the baptism of John.

As it occurs later with the twelve disciples, this indicates a process noticeable in Paul's day.

24And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

25This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.

26And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue, whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

27And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him, who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace;

28For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, showing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ. Acts 18: 24 and 28 (Inspired Version)

[PPC Note: The elaborations above, which Mauricio added to his second version, are clearly meant to equate one's previous RLDS baptism with the incomplete baptisms performed by John the Baptist. Mauricio has thus gone to great lengths to convince the reader that their original baptism was insufficient and that rebaptism in his church is the only sure way to please the Lord.]

In general, when the Church is formally established or there is a new beginning for a ministry or dispensation, those who have been baptized will be able to be baptized again. In the scriptures we see that Alma, who already possessed the priesthood—and therefore had already been baptized—for baptism must necessarily precede receiving the priesthood, was “buried in the water” (Mosiah 9:45 RLDS), but his rebaptism baptism had another purpose: to begin and organize the Church of God again among his people (Mosiah 9: 49-50 RLDS).

[PPC Note: “Moroni” seems to have lost his train of thought regarding whether or not a “new beginning for a ministry or dispensation” requires rebaptism, or whether one's original baptism is sufficient.]

As for authority of priesthood Alma, in the Book of Mormon, as we read in the text quoted below states:

“I, Alma, having been consecrated by my father, Alma, to be a high priest over the church of God, he (Father) having power and authority from God to do these things, behold, I say unto you that he began to establish a church in the land which was in the borders of Nephi, \Yea, the land which was called the land of Mormon; yea, and he did baptize his brethren in the waters of Mormon.” (Alma 3: 3-4 RLDS)

Moreover we read in Mosiah 9:43-51 RLDS (verse 43) And now, it came to pass that Alma took Helam, he being one of the first, and went and stood forth in the water, and cried, saying, O Lord, pour out thy Spirit upon thy servant, that he may do this work with holiness of heart.

Which corresponds to a prayer of Alma to God before the baptism so that the Holy Spirit is present in this ceremony, just as we make present our prayers before beginning the baptism.

Mos 9:44And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him; and he said, Helam, I baptize thee, having authority from the Almighty God (here it is clear that he already had the proper authority of the priesthood to baptize) as a testimony that ye have entered into a covenant to serve him until you are dead, as to the mortal body; and may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you; and may he grant unto you eternal life, through the redemption of Christ, whom he has prepared from the foundation of the world.

Mos 9:45And after Alma had said these words, both Alma and Helam were buried in the water; and they arose and came forth out of the water rejoicing, being filled with the Spirit.

Mos 9:46And again, Alma took another, and went forth a second time into the water, and baptized him according to the first, only he did not bury himself again in the water.

Mos 9:47And after this manner he did baptize everyone that went forth to the place of Mormon; and they were in number about two hundred and four souls;

Mos 9:48Yea, and they were baptized in the waters of Mormon and were filled with the grace of God;

Mos 9:49And they were called the church of God, or the church of Christ, from that time forward.

Mos 9:50And it came to pass that whosoever was baptized by the power and authority of God was added to his church.

Mos 9:51And it came to pass that Alma, having authority from God, ordained priests; even one priest to every fifty of their number did he ordain to preach unto them and to teach them concerning the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

How could Alma ordain priests if he were not a priest authorized by God?

This would be contrary to the order of the heavens.

This same kind of rebaptism is found in the case of Joseph Smith. He was baptized with Oliver Cowdery in 1829 – and was ~~renamed~~ baptized again on April 6, 1830.

[PPC Note: In his first version Mauricio claims Joseph Smith Jr. was baptized once and renamed once, but in his second version he claims Joseph Smith Jr. was baptized twice but not renamed.]

Although this information is not available in the RLDS church history articles, it is well known in the history of the LDS church, in the words of Joseph Fielding Smith in Doctrines of Salvation, volume 2, page 332 in Portuguese or page 426 in English.

[PPC Note: After Mauricio released the first version of his “message,” he evidently realized RLDS members do not believe in the LDS idea of “rebaptism [as] is found in the case of Joseph Smith . . . in 1829.” To recover from that error, Mauricio cited the only source where such false history is found—in a book authored by a Utah LDS President! In addition to the falsehood that Joseph Smith was rebaptized, the book “Moroni” led Mauricio to cite contains many other LDS falsehoods—including admiration for Brigham Young, celestial marriage, temple oaths and sealings, progression to godhood, etc. Since Mauricio was at one time an LDS Church member, it should come as no surprise that the revelations he receives from “Moroni” include reliance on such sources.]

~~“When the Church was organized, all the brothers who organized it into groups before that and others who had been baptized were renamed. They had to be, in order to enter the Church through the door and their members be confirmed. Indeed, one of the purposes of baptism is to admit a person in the Church. The Nephites were also renamed at the time Christ appeared to them.~~

[PPC Note: The paragraph above was not included in Mauricio’s second version. It features quote marks in two places, again, evidently indicating the supposed words of “Moroni.” If so, would it not be a high offense to delete the prophetic words of an “angel” as Mauricio did in his second version?

Also note that Mauricio again reveals his acceptance of the Catholic practice that people should be renamed when baptized. Since Mauricio has been both LDS and Catholic, it should come as no surprise that prophetic “messages” he fabricates include teachings from both of those churches.]

“When Jesus appeared to the Nephites on this continent, he commanded them to be baptized, though they had already been baptized for the remission of sins. We read how angels exercised ministry daily with Nephi; as Nephi baptized all who came to be baptized for the remission of sins; how he organized the Church and even raised his brother from death, since he held the priesthood. Then we read how the Savior ordered Nephi and the people to be baptized again because he had organized the Church according to the Gospel.” *[PPC Note: The quote marks indicate those words are the actual words “Moroni” spoke to Mauricio. Mauricio’s insistence that the Nephites had all been previously baptized, and that Jesus “ordered Nephi and the people to be baptized again” is pure conjecture.]*

~~Again The Lord is organizing his church again on April 6, 2019 according to your Gospel. Only after confirming church members, after this day (April 6, 2019) can you call again priests and elders. So that everything happens in order. and call again priests and elders everything will be in order. Those who received the Priesthood earlier, as did some here in Brazil, was due to a special calling in the~~

words of Moroni, so that all things (high priesthood and their keys) would be restored. But the rest of the issue should occur ~~only on April 6, by hands Joseph F Smith now, confirming the members of the Church when the church of Jesus Christ is officially restructured.~~

[PPC Note: In original version the main focus was a troubling edict that ordinations cease until April 6, 2019. In the second version, that edict was maintained but was camouflaged, and the main focus was switched to the power in Joseph F.'s hands.]

Until then, many truths regarding this matter will be revealed to His people by the Lord.

Mauricio Artur Berger, Prophet, Seer, Revelator, Translator High Priest of the Holy Order of the Son of God 12.18.2018 RC 7

Their “Moroni” says baptisms by Melchisedec ministers from any Restoration church *are not acceptable*. In a stunning departure from the faith, in the above “message” from “Moroni,” Mauricio reveals that *everyone* previously baptized by a Melchisedec priesthood member from *any* Restoration-style church must now be rebaptized. Why? Because “God took away the Greater Priesthood” from the earth—and evidently did it so long ago that no one now living is old enough to have been baptized (or confirmed) by a genuine Melchisedec minister. That charge would evidently even apply to my 92-year-old mother, Pamela (who was blessed as a baby in 1926 by RLDS Seventy S. S. Smith and Elder A. E. Ziegenhorn, then baptized and confirmed in 1939, by Ziegenhorn). Yes, Mauricio insists that *everyone* living who was baptized by such pretenders to the Melchisedec priesthood must now be rebaptized to join Mauricio’s church! In this, he is announcing that only he (an excommunicated LDS) has true Melchisedec authority. Whereas, such stalwarts as the RLDS Melchisedec elders who baptized my mother (both who were ordained during the presidency of Joseph Smith III) had *no* such authority!

In addition, this author has preserved screen shots of Internet discussions between Brazil Faction insiders who have revealed that Mauricio has specifically informed them that the Melchisedec order was taken from the earth in the generation after Joseph Smith Jr. If such were actually true, then the entire RLDS Church would necessarily be false since it was fully organized only when Joseph Smith III received the Melchisedec priesthood when he was ordained to be Prophet, Seer, Revelator, and President of the High Priesthood—in the generation after Joseph Smith Jr.! Mauricio’s teaching not only seeks to negate the authority of RLDS baptisms by Melchisedec priesthood (as discussed above) but also seeks to negate the validity of many other sacraments/ordinances, as will be discussed later in this report.

“Moroni” thinks baptisms by Aaronic priests from *any* Restoration church *are acceptable*. Simultaneous with the above heresy, the alleged “Moroni” has initiated yet another one, declaring that people can join their new LDS church without rebaptism *if* their original baptism was in *any church* that uses the Book of Mormon—as long as they were baptized by a priest and not a Melchisedec minister. So baptisms by priests from churches “Moroni” evidently accepts include the mistaken Utah LDS, polygamous FLDS, and unbelieving Community of Christ churches (and any other church, faction, or cult that uses the Book of Mormon); but *only* if a priest from one of those disparate groups did the baptizing!

Mauricio has prophetically pronounced that all Aaronic priests in every church, faction, and cult have full and equal authority. Yet he has said that no Melchisedec ministers exist anywhere on earth—except for him and for those who he has authorized to be ordained.

“Moroni” forgot that many priests are ordained by Melchisedec ministers. The faction’s claim that the Melchisedec priesthood was absent from the earth until Mauricio restored it, is undocumented and indefensible. Yet they have based a significant portion of their new theology on that flimsy belief. Likewise, they have overlooked the fact that if no other Restoration church has any valid Melchisedec ministers, then those same churches cannot have valid priests either, for although priests *can* ordain other priests, such is not always the case. In every Restoration church, priests are usually called, and many times ordained, by Melchisedec priesthood. And since the Brazil Faction teaches that the higher priesthood is not valid in other Restoration churches but is only staffed by men who mistakenly *think* they are Melchisedec ministers, then those men cannot authoritatively perform *any* sacraments/ordinances—including that of ordaining priests!

“Moroni” is ignorant of the fact that priests in our dispensation cannot function without Melchisedec authorization. Due to the disobedience of the people, when Moses passed away, God took the Melchisedec priesthood from the earth, leaving only the Aaronic priesthood (see RLDS DC 83:4c–d). But (as shall be shown in the pages that follow) in *our* dispensation, that cannot happen. Not only have we been promised that the Melchisedec order will never again be taken away, but we are commanded that the Aaronic order *cannot* be authorized to minister without direct Melchisedec authorization and certification.

The Doctrine and Covenants includes definite instructions regarding priesthood powers, duties, responsibilities, and dependencies. It states that a new priest ordained by another priest *is not authorized to baptize anyone*, or perform any other duty of his office, until he first presents a certificate of his ordination to an elder, “which certificate, when presented to an elder, shall entitle him to a license, which shall authorize him to perform the duties of his calling; or he may receive it from a conference” (RLDS DC 17:15). And conferences, of course, are presided over by elders (see RLDS DC 17:13, 25a). Therefore, Mauricio’s “revelation” (that teaches that in *this* dispensation that the Aaronic order can be sustained without the presence of the Melchisedec order) *cannot* be of God. In *this* dispensation, neither order of the priesthood can be taken from the earth, nor can the Aaronic order function without being authorized by the Melchisedec order!

This fact was evidenced when the priesthood was restored to Joseph Smith Jr. in 1829. Before the Melchisedec priesthood was restored to Joseph, he was first ordained to the Aaronic priesthood by the angel, John the Baptist. John, who was an Aaronic priest (see RLDS DC 83:4c–d), bestowed that priesthood on Joseph *under authority of the Melchisedec angels—Peter, James, and John* (see RLDS *History of the Church*, 1:34–35). In *this* dispensation, even John the Baptist could not bestow and ordain Joseph Smith to the Aaronic priesthood without authorization of the Melchisedec order!

Since it is impossible for either order of the priesthood to be taken from the earth in *this* dispensation, Mauricio’s “revelation” to the contrary proves that he has given a false prophecy. But even if such a thing *were* possible, Mauricio’s “revelation” is proven false in yet another way: *If* (as Mauricio claims) the Melchisedec order was taken from the earth so long ago that no one now alive could have possibly met one of that order, then there cannot be any Aaronic priests left on earth either. This is because, when the last Melchisedec elder died, no priests

thereafter ordained by priests could have possibly met this dispensation's scriptural command to complete their ordination process by being accepted and certified by a true elder. It is very obvious from the above discrepancies that these revelations, and their "Moroni" who brought them, are not of the Lord.

"Moroni" dictates that most of those who join Mauricio's church must be rebaptized. Mauricio attempts to use precedents to convince everyone that they must be rebaptized to become members of his new church. Mauricio references Mosiah 9:45 to prove Alma rebaptized *himself* (which it does not). He also claims Joseph Smith Jr. was baptized *and* rebaptized, but offers no proof—other than a quote from one of the Utah LDS Church presidents. Plus, he cites Acts 19:1–7. However, those rebaptisms were performed on Jews who had only experienced John the Baptist's immersion for remission of sins, who also wanted to be baptized in the name of Christ and receive the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands.

Jewish law required the regular practice of various "ablutions," or ritualistic washings of purification, including the "tvilah" washings that required full immersion. John the Baptist was not only a true Aaronic priest (see RLDS DC 83:4c–d), but was also a "Rabbi" who was considered such an expert on the required washings that his counsel was sought when questions arose on the subject (see John 3:26–27 IV; 3:25–26 KJV). In answering the Jews' questions on ritual washings, John was inspired to preach the true meanings of the symbolisms behind their rituals, and to prophesy to them that their long-awaited Messiah (whom all their rituals symbolized) was about to arrive (see John 3:28–36 IV; 3:27–36 KJV).

Acts 19 plainly declares that the persons therein described had received baptism by John for repentance and remission of sins, but did not comprehend the full significance of Christ, nor had they even *heard* of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. Having misunderstood their baptism, they thought they were being baptized "unto John" (v. 3) instead of "unto Jesus Christ" (v. 5)—even though John had specifically told them that "they should believe on him which should come after him, that is on Christ Jesus" (v. 4). When Paul realized their misunderstanding, he rebaptized them "in the name of the Lord Jesus (v. 5). And because John never had the authority to bestow the gift of the Holy Ghost (because he was of the Aaronic priesthood), Paul then "laid hands upon them, and the Holy Ghost came on them" (v. 6). Mauricio has twisted the lesson of Acts 19 into a contrivance to justify the false rebaptism "message" his counterfeit "Moroni" gave him.

Mauricio also claims the rebaptisms *alluded to* in 3 Nephi 9 (when Christ appeared in the Americas) establishes a precedent too. However, Mauricio errs in that theory also, for High Priest Charles Fry so authoritatively answered that question many decades ago:

Nephite Rebaptism

QUESTION: If the Melchisedec priesthood was returned with Alma, why did Christ require rebaptism of Nephi and all those with him at the time of His appearance here (3 Nephi 9:12, 13)?

ANSWER [by Charles Fry]: The brevity of the Book of Mormon leaves us with no direct evidence on this point [including no direct evidence if members *were* all rebaptized] . . . but . . . does bring to light a very probable explanation.

From Alma's time the building up and perpetuation of the church was a continual struggle against the forces of evil which arose within and without. During that period the nation was in decline, and *the church suffered many perversions and deflections*, frequently reaching a very low stage. Notwithstanding *the people had the gospel and the higher priesthood*, the Law of Moses was still in force with its restrictions. Political troubles and

rebellions, against both the government and the church, leading to wars and confusion, were frequent; in the end the subversive secret organization of “Gadianton Robbers” undermined society to the ultimate breaking up of the government. . . .

Three years before Christ appeared *the church was destroyed* save for some traces among the Lamanites, notwithstanding the faithful labors of Nephi and others to maintain it. . . . *The whole nation had become corrupted, involving the church.* . . . Nephi and some others of the faithful were among the survivors.

It was to this broken remnant that Christ appeared after his resurrection, giving to them the gospel in its purity and telling them that the Law of Moses was done away. *He introduced baptism, having called twelve men to his ministry and giving them authority to baptize and build up his church.* . . . What was left of the old could be merged into the new, leaving out the errors and perversities with which the church had long been plagued. (*Question Time*, Price Publishing Company [2003 printing of Vol. 1, 1955 Herald House ed.]: 339–340; italics added)

Before Jesus appeared, Nephi (the Nephi who was the grandson of Helaman) indeed baptized people, which would necessitate that he at least was a priest, if not an elder. But when Jesus appeared, the Lord definitely called Nephi to lead the Melchisedec priesthood when Jesus chose the Nephite twelve disciples and assigned him to lead them (see 3 Nephi 5:19–27). Jesus also then gave instructions regarding the exact mode and words of baptism. The next day (under that most sublime of celestial experiences) Nephi evidently *was* rebaptized, and then baptized the twelve Jesus had chosen (see 3 Nephi 9:12–13).

Even so, there is no hint that the twelve disciples had been previously baptized—Mauricio just assumes such is the case. Mauricio says, “the Saviour ordered Nephi and the people to be baptized *again*.” The scripture does not say “again,” only Mauricio says “again.” But if his conjecture is true, then it should apply to *all* of us (just as Mauricio infers it applied to *all* the Nephites). But instead, Mauricio says that today, those previously baptized by *priests* (including *those* in apostate churches) need no rebaptism! If that is true, then why did not Jesus likewise tell the Nephites they all needed to be rebaptized—*except* those previously baptized by *priests* (including in the apostate churches of Nephi’s day)?

Mauricio continues to wrest other scriptures to prove his rebaptism requirement, but further reproofs of him are unnecessary—for however one analyzes Mauricio’s rebaptism “message” from “Moroni,” his new teachings are without merit.

“Moroni’s” decree, that *everyone* must be reconfirmed, is a denial of the Holy Ghost. Mauricio’s recent message from “Moroni” reveals that, while only *some* people who join his new church will need to be rebaptized, that *everyone* will need to be reconfirmed. He infers this is required because the Melchisedec priesthood was evidently “taken away” so long ago that no person now alive could possibly be old enough to have had the Holy Ghost conferred on them by a valid Melchisedec priesthood member. Such claims are of the spirit of antichrist!

Many of today’s Church members were personally converted, baptized, confirmed, or received ministry from those who they *know* authoritatively served in the Melchisedec order, by and through the power of God! They *know* they experienced the Holy Ghost during the ministry of those men. I can bear record of such ministry in my life from Melchisedec ministers such as Israel A. Smith (who signed the elder’s license of my father, Richard Price); Church Historian James Davis (who I witnessed weeping in despair as the apostate hierarchy allowed the treasured library of him and his wife—Inez Smith Davis who wrote *The Story of the Church*—to be incinerated); Jasper Noble (who was one of my youth camp ministers); Alvin Knisley (author of *Doctrinal References*); Gomer T. Griffiths (author of *The Interpreter*); Joseph Luff; Oscar

Case, and his brother Hubert (both of whose sermons inspired me as a teen); Arthur Rock; Joseph Luff Sandidge (whose deathbed I was at, when I was age fifteen); Charles and Evan Fry; Patriarchs Roy Weldon, Frank White (who comforted my parents with a special revelation), Henry Schaeffer, and Louis Richards (who gave me my Patriarchal Blessing); and Apostles Charles Hield and Arthur Oakman.

Many of us in the RLDS Church have known these men and others like them who were true Melchisedec ministers. Yet Mauricio would now have us believe that *none* of them had valid Melchisedec priesthood authority! In his December “revelation” (see Endnote 7), Mauricio insists that an “angel” taught him that all of those good, spiritual men (and many more like them) could *not* have been real Melchisedec ministers. He (and his counterfeit “Moroni”) would have us *deny the Holy Ghost* was with those stalwart Melchisedec men, *deny the Holy Ghost* was conferred on us when we were confirmed by them, *deny* they had any authority to confer *the Holy Ghost*, and *deny the Holy Ghost* we experienced during the ministry of those men. Instead, Mauricio now asserts that to truly join Christ’s Church and receive the Holy Ghost, we must *all* be reconfirmed by him or his followers!

According to the new theology of Mauricio and his “Moroni,” President Israel A. Smith, Presiding Patriarch Elbert A. Smith, and Apostles Charles Hield and Arthur Oakman had no Melchisedec authority. If that is true, those men were either deceivers, or were deceived!

Mauricio’s new theology teaches that no one now alive has ever experienced a valid sacrament/ordinance. RLDS theology recognizes eight sacraments/ordinances within Christ’s Church that require authoritative priesthood to perform. These are: (1) baptism of water by immersion, (2) baptism of the Holy Spirit conferred by the laying on of hands, (3) the Lord’s Supper, (4) administration for healing, (5) marriage, (6) blessing of children, (7) patriarchal blessings, and (8) ordination (see *Ordinances and Sacraments of the Church*, by Charles E. Brockway and Alfred H. Yale, Herald House, 1962).

If Mauricio’s prophetic “message” from “Moroni” (see Endnote 7) is true and no one alive today has ever met a valid Melchisedec minister, then *all* of the sacraments/ordinances we have experienced at the hands of such ministers have been invalid. Likewise, *all* the sacraments/ordinances we have received at the hands of Aaronic priests have been invalid. For, as has been previously explained, newly ordained Aaronic priests are not empowered to perform even a single duty of their calling until they are accepted and certified by a valid Melchisedec elder.

Thus, if Mauricio’s “message” from “Moroni” is true, then all of the sacraments/ordinances are invalid that RLDS/Restoration Branch members have received. If Mauricio’s “revelation” is true, such would mean that anyone who thinks they:

- have been served the Lord’s Sacrament—have not really experienced that blessing;
- have been baptized by one in authority—have not been;
- have been confirmed and had the Holy Ghost conferred—are mistaken;
- received a healing from the laying on of hands—only imagined it;
- were joined in marriage by an RLDS minister—have not been married under Melchisedec authority;
- know of a child that has been blessed by the elders—are mistaken;
- have been guided or comforted by a Patriarchal Blessing—have been deceived;

- have been ordained (or have ordained someone)—have not been;
- have been blessed with special consolation, counsel, protection, provision, deliverance, intercession, inspiration, intervention, miracle or other extraordinary outcome due to the authoritative prayer of an RLDS minister—are being simplistic or superstitious;
- have heard the gift of prophecy by an RLDS minister—have been misled;
- believe any revelation in the Doctrine and Covenants given in the lifetime of either them or their parents is of God—are sadly mistaken.

Mauricio's new theology compels people to deny the Holy Ghost was conferred on them when they were confirmed, and will require them to discard all of the Doctrine and Covenants prophecies of Joseph Smith III, Frederick M. Smith, and Israel A. Smith.

Mauricio's new theology discards all the RLDS prophecies after Joseph Smith Jr. If people believe no Melchisedec ministers have existed since Joseph Smith Jr., then all of the ministers of the early Reorganization had no valid priesthood authority. This would include men like E. C. Briggs, W. W. Blair, Charles Derry, Joseph Luff, Gomer T. Griffiths, J. J. Cornish, Alexander H. Smith, David H. Smith, and most importantly, Joseph Smith III. If Joseph Smith III had no Melchisedec priesthood authority as Prophet, Seer, and Revelator of the RLDS Church, then all of his revelations giving instructions to the Church (Sections 114–131) were false.

In addition, all the Melchisedec ministers who have lived during the lifetime of persons as old as Price Publishing Company's 92-year-old Board Member, Pamela Price, also have had no priesthood authority. If such is the case, persons must presume the Doctrine and Covenants revelations of Frederick M. Smith that were given after she was born, and *all* of the revelations of Israel A. Smith, are just the vain imaginations of man. This is especially true since those revelations were endorsed by the Melchisedec and Aaronic quorums in the Conferences that approved them. Mauricio's "revelation" encourages the belief that those Doctrine and Covenants revelations are not of the Lord! Thus, according to Mauricio's new theology, the following are *some* of the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants (given during the lifetime of our oldest living members), which Mauricio would have us now disregard:

- Section 136, given in 1932 by Frederick M. Smith (when my mother was six years old), is declared to be "the word of the Lord to us now." It includes God commending the retiring Bishop, Albert Carmichael, and choosing L. F. P. Curry to replace him. Likewise, G. Leslie DeLapp is called by "the word of the Lord" to be a bishop, and George G. Lewis to be an apostle.
- Section 137, given in 1938 by Frederick M. Smith, is proclaimed to be the "Voice of Divine Inspiration" (see the introduction to the revelation in the 1952 edition). It includes words of the Lord honoring the service of President Frederick A. Smith, calls Apostle J. Frank Curtis to be a patriarch, and calls Elbert A. Smith to Presiding Patriarch. It also calls C. George Mesley, Arthur A. Oakman, and Charles R. Hield to be apostles. If Mauricio is correct, Oakman and Hield were not real apostles, and, like the other ministers mentioned, were merely posers.

- Section 138, given in 1940 by Frederick M. Smith and declared to be “Divine instruction to the church” (see introduction to Section 138 in the 1952 edition), calls Israel A. Smith and L. F. P. Curry as Counselors to the First Presidency.
- Section 139, given in 1946 by Israel A. Smith, is introduced as “The Voice of Inspiration from God” (see the introduction to the revelation in the 1952 edition), and asserts to speak God’s words: “It is my will, saith the Spirit, that my servants of the Quorum of Twelve, John F. Garver and F. Henry Edwards, be ordained . . . to be presidents in the Quorum of the First Presidency.”
- Section 140, given in 1947 by Israel A. Smith, is “an expression of the divine will” (see revelation introduction in the 1952 edition) and “the will of the Lord.” It calls Roscoe E. Davey to be an apostle and honors John W. Rushton for the service to his generation as an apostle. But Mauricio insists no such true Melchisedec ministers existed then—meaning that those men were only impostors.
- Section 141, given in 1948 by Israel A. Smith, is declared to be “an expression of the divine will to guide and direct the affairs of the church” (see the introduction to Section 141 in the 1952 edition). It says God took the life of Apostle George G. Lewis, whose “labors have been acceptable,” and then Brother Israel calls and honors others to higher Melchisedec offices.
- Section 142, given in 1950 by Israel A. Smith, is declared as “the word of God to the church” (see introduction to the revelation in the 1952 edition). It includes words of God that accept the sacrifices of the departed president, John F. Garver, and calls Donald O. Chesworth to be an apostle.
- Section 143, given in 1954 by Israel A. Smith, is declared to be “an expression of the Divine Will” (see the introduction to Section 143 in the 1952 edition). However, since it was given by a Melchisedec minister and is primarily about expanding and empowering Melchisedec ministries, according to Mauricio’s new theology, it *cannot* be divine.

Ordinance of Washing of Feet Incorrectly Practiced

In addition to Mauricio’s October 29, 2018, “revelation” promoting himself while ordaining Joseph F. (see Endnote 6), on December 3 the faction added a video of their performing the washing of feet during that ordination. The video—which they deleted a few hours after posting it—originally included scenes of Mauricio with a towel draped over his shoulders while washing Joseph’s feet. This was probably the same towel draped over his head during the ordination. As of this writing, although the video has been replaced with an edited version that deletes the foot-washing scenes, the photo with the towel draped over Mauricio’s head can still be viewed (see photos and also Endnote 6).

According to RLDS Doctrine and Covenants 85:46a, “The ordinance of washing of feet is to be administered by the president, or presiding elder of the church.” Since Mauricio is pictured washing Joseph’s feet, it must be assumed that the Brazil Faction now considers Mauricio (and not Joseph F.) to be the president, or presiding elder of their new church.

Observers have been puzzled why Mauricio draped the towel around his neck and head. The book of John (which RLDS DC 85 cites regarding how to conduct the ordinance) instructs

that this ordinance be conducted in a very specific way—unlike the way in which Mauricio is pictured conducting it. To the contrary, Apostle John states: “[Jesus] laid aside his garments;⁸ and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a basin, and he began to wash the disciples’ feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.” (John 13:4–5 [IV and KJV])



NOTE: Photo (above, left) is a single image screen grab of the ordinance of washing of feet that causeofzion.org included in an ordination video they posted (and later replaced with a version without the washing of feet) at their webpage <https://thecauseofzion.org/ordination-of-joseph-f-smith-high-priest-president-of-the-high-priesthood/?fbclid=IwAR3NDtIHIFqTU4zPzFthgzDHIZ7lcSAGz1mZ9CWPLrscheMjL8AGb7crV5w>

Photo (above, right) is a portion of an image of that same ordination, which they posted at their webpage <https://thecauseofzion.org/2018/11/15/10-29-2018-ordination-of-joseph-president-of-high-priesthood/>

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Both photos demonstrate, and are necessary to properly depict and describe the participants’ new and unscriptural methods of how, when, and with whom they perform this ordinance. This makes their photos newsworthy, subject to criticism and comment, and of interest to teachers, scholars, and researchers. Accordingly, after Consultation, Price Publishing Company hereby invokes the above-cited law to claim non-infringement, and the right of Fair Use of the images, in Good Faith.

To “gird” oneself is defined as to encircle one’s body with an item—as one does with a belt or sash. No definition of the word “gird” includes the act of either openly hanging the item around one’s neck or draping it over one’s head. Mauricio’s liberalization of how to conduct this special ordinance is evidence that he and Joseph F. are trifling with sacred things.

Brazil Faction insiders have shared with us discussions between themselves describing why Mauricio improvised this particular departure from the scriptures. Although we have screen shots of their statements (with digital evidences that they in fact are the true authors), we choose not to identify them. Those discussions describe that “Moroni” gave new instructions to Mauricio regarding how he was to now enact the ordinance.

The RLDS Church Has Always Taught That *Neither* Priesthood Order Can Ever Be Taken from the Earth Again

Unlike the Brazil Faction, which is now teaching that so much priesthood authority was “taken away” from the earth that an angel had to restore it to *them*, the RLDS Church has *always* taught that the angelic ordinations of Joseph Smith Jr. and Oliver Cowdery were *the last time in the history of the world* that the priesthoods—and the keys to the kingdom of the priesthoods—could or would be restored by the hands of an angel.

Aaronic priesthood can never be taken from the earth again. Church history relates that when the Aaronic priesthood was restored:

A messenger from heaven [John the Baptist, by authority of Peter, James, and John] descended in a cloud of light, and having laid his hands upon us, he ordained us, saying . . . I confer the priesthood of Aaron . . . and this [priesthood] shall never be taken again from the earth. (RLDS *History of the Church* 1:34–35)

Melchisedec priesthood can never be taken from earth again. While the Brazil Faction may concede that the Aaronic priesthood can never be taken from the earth again, in Mauricio’s “message” from “Moroni” of December 16, 2018 (as well as his December 18 revision thereof), Mauricio insisted that the Melchisedec priesthood and keys *were* taken, until an angel restored them to Mauricio. However, the Doctrine and Covenants disagrees.

In 1830 the Lord said: “And also with Peter, and James, and John, whom I have sent unto you, by whom I have ordained you and confirmed you to be apostles . . . of my name, and bear *the keys* of your ministry . . . unto whom I have committed *the keys of my kingdom and a dispensation of the gospel for the last times; and for the fullness of times*” (RLDS DC 26:3a–b; italics added).

In 1832 the Lord again promised that the Melchisedec priesthood was to remain on the earth until the end: “Therefore your life and the priesthood hath remained, *and must needs remain*, through you and your lineage, until the restoration of all things spoken by the mouths of all the holy prophets since the world began” (RLDS DC 84:3b; italics added).

In 1837 God *again* promised that the Melchisedec priesthood, and keys thereof, had been restored for the last time, “For unto you (the Twelve), and those (the First Presidency), who are appointed with you . . . is the power of this priesthood given, *for the last days, and for the last time*, in the which is the dispensation of the fullness of times . . . for verily I say into you, *The keys* of the dispensation which ye have received, have come down from the fathers; *and last of all*, being sent down from heaven unto you” (RLDS DC 105:12a–c; italics added).

In an effort to buttress one of the false claims in his December “message” from “Moroni,” Mauricio cited a book authored by an LDS President. Since Mauricio chose to do that, we thought it appropriate to also include the LDS Church source quotes, below, to show that the LDS Church *does not* support Mauricio’s new doctrine of the removal of the Melchisedec order—that Mauricio’s “message” is out of harmony with the basic teachings of both the RLDS *and* LDS Churches. Several years after Joseph Smith Jr. was martyred, Oliver Cowdery testified two different times:

The priesthood is here, I was present with Joseph when an holy angle from god came down from heaven and confereed, or restored the Aronic priesthood. And said at the same time that it should remain upon the earth while the earth stands. I was also present with Joseph when the melchesideck priesthood was confereed by the

holy angles of god. . . . This priesthood is also to remain upon the earth until the Last remnant of time. . . .”⁹ (original spelling retained)

(and)

These Priesthoods (Aaronic and Melchizedek), with their authority, are now, and must continue to be, in the body of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.¹⁰

The Melchisedec priesthood is not taken from the earth when Church *leaders* apostatize. The RLDS Church has always taught that from 1830 on, even if the leaders apostatize, that *both* priesthoods will remain on the earth through members who do not apostatize. Thus, no additional angelic ordinations to restore the priesthood can, or will, ever again transpire:

QUESTION: If the ordination of John the Baptist under the direction of Peter, James and John was necessary for the first ordination of Joseph Smith, Jr., and Oliver Cowdery, could officers of the Melchisedec priesthood function in the case of [ordaining] Joseph Smith III without a new dispensation of [angelic] authority?

ANSWER: *Yes. The authority of the high priesthood had not disappeared [with Brigham Young’s apostasy and the rejection of the portion of the Church who followed him]. . . . Marks and Gurley held this latter [Melchisedec] priesthood from the lifetime of Joseph Smith, Jr., and the others who participated in the ordination of Joseph Smith III held their priesthood through the line of those with similar authority. . . . At the first ordination of a man to the Aaronic priesthood the prophecy was given that it was never to be taken from the earth. . . . It has not been, as the authority of both priesthoods has continued to this day and is exercised in the Reorganization.”* (Question Time, Herald House, 1967 ed.: 2:294–295; italics added)

Declaration by Joseph Smith Jr.

Disproves the Brazil Faction’s Claim to Divinity

Nevertheless, there have been false witnesses and apostate teachers who have taught otherwise, claiming that the priesthood has been taken from the earth and that another angel was dispatched from heaven to ordain and/or restore it to *them*. The first known instance of this reoccurring phenomenon transpired during the Kirtland era, when a particular elder was sent out by Joseph Smith Jr. to preach. That individual (like Mauricio) soon garnered a following by claiming that an angel had appeared and ordained him to be a high priest. Joseph Smith Jr. immediately cancelled the man’s mission and rebuked him. Orson Hyde, one of the Twelve Apostles, recorded Joseph Smith Jr.’s exhortations why such claims by any and all persons making them should *always* be disbelieved:

Brother Joseph observed that he knew no true angel from God will ever [again] come to ordain any man, because they have once been sent to establish the priesthood by ordaining me [Joseph] thereunto; and the priesthood being once established on earth, with power to ordain others, no heavenly messenger will ever come to interfere with that power by ordaining any more. . . . [Joseph then exhorted the Church] You may therefore know, from this time forward, that if any man comes to you professing to be ordained by an angel, he is either a liar

or has been imposed upon . . . by an angel of the devil, for this priesthood shall never be taken away from this church. (*Millennial Star* 8 [November 20, 1846]: 139; italics added)

Regardless of the Brazil Faction's recent false declarations, the true Church has *always* taught that both the Aaronic and Melchisedec priesthoods cannot and will not *ever be taken* from the earth again, that they cannot and will not *ever need to be restored*, nor *can they be restored* by an angel again, and that *no man can or will ever again* be ordained by an angel.

Yet Mauricio Berger and Joseph F. Smith have *repeatedly* claimed that the Melchisedec priesthood was completely taken away from the earth (until it was restored to them by an angel), that an angel called Joseph F. to a higher priesthood office, and that Mauricio was called *and* ordained by that same angel (whom they also insist restored the keys to the kingdom to them both). Those claims by them are the *exact deception* Joseph Smith Jr. warned we would hear from the lips of liars, or those who have "been imposed upon . . . by an angel of the devil." Here are some of the examples where Mauricio and Joseph F. have taught these dark heresies:

Sustaining Joseph F Smith – President of the Church

Joseph was called by the angel messenger Moroni and was then designated, set apart and ordained by one having the keys and authority given to him by angelic beings—Mauricio Berger. (originally at, but later removed from: <https://thecauseofzion.org/josephfsmith/sustaining-joseph-f-smith-president-of-the-church> italics added)

Sustaining Ordinance

Joseph was called by the angel messenger Moroni and was then designated, set apart and ordained by one having the keys and authority given to him by angelic beings—Mauricio Berger. Assisting in the ordination, which took place March 6th, 2018 in Brazil, were elders Gary Metzger and Bob Moore. Joseph's calling and ordination were then upheld by the vote of the Conference held in Missouri on August 18, 2018. (originally at, but later removed from: <https://thecauseofzion.org/sustaining-ordinance/> italics added.)

11.11.2018 President Smith's Testimony

Joseph F Smith was ordained a High Priest and President of the High Priesthood, under the authority and hands of the prophet & Seer, *Mauricio Berger, himself being ordained under the authority of the angel Moroni.* (<https://thecauseofzion.org/11-11-2018-president-smiths-testimony/> italics added)

Ordination of Joseph F Smith – Prophet, Seer & Revelator

Having been commissioned and given authority by angelic beings of heaven, by the order of Melchizedek, I [Mauricio] place my hands on the head of Joseph Fredrick Smith, in the true priesthood of the Son of God, I designate, over this ordinance, as a Prophet, Seer and Revelator of His Church of Jesus Christ. . . . (<https://thecauseofzion.org/ordination-of-joseph-f-smith-prophet-seer-revelator/> italics added)

Ordination of Joseph F. Smith—High Priest & President of the High Priesthood
I, Mauricio Berger, Having been confirmed by the hands of an angel as High Priest holding the keys of the kingdom of God on earth, brought back again among the sons of men for the purpose of restoring His Church in Zion and in the world. I hereby consecrate and appoint Joseph Frederick Smith to the Presidency of the High Priesthood of the Church. (originally at, but later removed from: <https://thecauseofzion.org/ordination-of-joseph-f-smith-high-priest-president-of-the-high-priesthood/?fbclid=IwAR3NDtHiFqTU4zPzFthgzDHIZ7lcSAGz1mZ9CWPLrscheMjL8AGb7crV5w> italics added)

12.16.2018 Message to the Church in Zion

In the words of Moroni, a person who was baptized by a minor priesthood authority in the various branches of the restoration does not need baptism again, but needs to receive the confirmation or gift of the Holy Spirit from April 6, 2019, when his name is confirmed as a member of the Church – and she then becomes a member of the church that has will be restructured on this day. That is, even if the baptism is from another branch of the restoration, *Moroni states* that it has validity, because the Lord did not abandon the believers of the Book of Mormon, but only *took away the Greater Priesthood*. “So he can be confirmed a member of the Church.” But if this can not be confirmed as receiving baptism by the authority of the Aaronic priesthood, then there must be a new baptism, followed by confirmation. There will be those who are already baptized will choose to rename themselves. . . . Again the Lord is organizing his church on April 6, 2019 according to the your Gospel. Only after confirming church members, after this day (April 6, 2019) can you call again priests and elders. So that everything happens in order. Those who received the Priesthood earlier, as it did some here in Brazil, was due to a special called *in the words of Moroni*, so that all things (*high priesthood and their keys*) would be restored. But the rest of the issue should occur only on April 6, when the church of Jesus Christ is officially restructured. -Mauricio Artur Berger. (see Endnote 7; italics added)

Several Brazil Faction Witnesses and Key Sponsors Now Express Deep Doubts About the Faction

Because of the many evidences that the Brazil Faction is based on a strong delusion and that their theology is devolving into that of a radical cult, it should come as no surprise that several of the faction’s eight “witnesses,” and other early enablers, are now expressing deep doubts and sounding alarms regarding that movement.

On December 23, 2018, a letter addressed to the Zarahemla Branch (which originally sponsored many of the faction’s presentations) was signed by two of the faction’s witnesses, Brad Gault and Bob Moore. Brad Gault sent a digital pdf copy of that letter to everyone on his branch email list on December 23, at 3:17:45 PM CST, and soon thereafter a copy was forwarded to me.

Faction members are increasingly troubled that Mauricio and/or Joseph F. now advocate:

- *changing the Sabbath from Sunday to Saturday;*
- *observing (Law of Moses) evening moon ceremonies each month;*
- *systematically shuttling men from lower to higher priesthood offices as a training and qualification tactic—just like the Utah LDS Church does;*
- *using scare tactics to threaten death and destruction of non-supporters, and even traumatizing supporters with talk that “the righteous must leave Zion for eight years while it is destroyed and cleansed”;*
- *remaining silent instead of questioning obvious discrepancies, in order to demonstrate how great one’s faith is in the faction’s leaders;*
- *the “attempted cover up” that one of Mauricio’s “revelations” was rewritten because Joseph F. did not like it; that significant portions were removed and added to it until Joseph was happy; and then misleading statements were made insisting that the changes were just minor translation errors that had caused confusion.*

In it, Moore and Gault detailed the serious concerns they now have with the present direction of the faction they previously supported. Not only did their disclosure confirm many of the faction's departures from the truth that Price Publishing has been warning of, but it revealed several additional degradations the faction has embraced.

Even though they still bravely maintain Mauricio's metal plates are genuine and shall be used to bring forth the sealed portion, the letter that faction insiders Moore and Gault signed on December 23, 2018, nevertheless thoroughly exposes and excoriates the faction's precarious state. They confess that:

- **A new church should not be formed.** They say, "We have been dismayed at the growing focus to organize a church. The goal to restructure the church within the near future competed with our original testimony and more recently disclosed contradictions to which we must speak" (Letter of December 23, 2018, from Zarahemla Branch Pastorate to members, p. 1).
- **Joseph F.'s Solemn Assembly to approve him as President violated Church law.** (ibid., 1)
- **Joseph F.'s ordination to president of the high priesthood violated scripture.** They say, " 'Every president of the high priesthood . . . is to be ordained by the direction of a high council, or general conference' (Sec 17:17). . . . No effort has been made to organize or hold a general conference of the church" (ibid., 1).
- **Mauricio had no authority to ordain Joseph F. Smith to be President.** They say, "Mauricio Berger ordained Joseph F. Smith to the High Priesthood but does not hold the proper authority [to do so]" (ibid., 1).
- **Mauricio's claim that Moroni ordained him to be a High Priest is suspicious.** They say, "He [Mauricio] . . . has more recently claimed that Moroni conferred on him the authority of a High Priest" (ibid., 1).
- **Moroni is not authorized to restore the priesthood.** They say, "It would not be Moroni's place to restore the High Priesthood" (ibid., 1).
- **Melchisedec priesthood was not taken from the earth.** They say, "There are men in the Restoration that hold the authority of High Priest. It did not need to be restored" (ibid., 2).
- **Wrong to contend Melchisedec priesthood was taken from earth until restored to Mauricio and Joseph F.** (ibid., 2)
- **Wrong to teach that Aaronic priesthood continued in power after Melchisedec priesthood was taken from the earth.** They say, "The notion of the Aaronic priesthood continuing in the absence of the Melchisedec priesthood is problematic because it is highly unlikely that any Aaronic priest today could trace their authority in an unbroken chain of ordinations from priest-to-priest all the way back to the restoration under the hands of John the Baptist. To say that one man's priesthood authority is more "pure" than another's is inaccurate. You either have authority or you do not. There are no grades of authority" (ibid., 2).

- **Wrong to teach that the Aaronic priesthood is equally authoritative in all churches and factions.** (ibid., 2)
- **Wrong to require rebaptisms and reordinations.** They say, “This teaching has led to the conclusion that re-ordinations and re-baptisms are necessary for membership participation in the emerging church. . . . For those who have already entered in at the strait gate, and [*sic*] additional baptism ‘availeth him nothing’ (Sec. 20:1b)” (ibid., 2).
- **Wrong to change priesthood to match Utah LDS blueprint.** They say, “The teaching that in the future all men will first have to be ordained as an Aaronic Priest and ‘prove themselves’ before any ordination to the Melchisedec priesthood [is wrong]. . . . Progressive priesthood is a practice in the LDS church and one that does not find support in scripture” (ibid., 2).
- **Wrong to change Sabbath from Sunday to Saturday,**
AND
- **Wrong to start celebrating Law of Moses ‘Day of Adoration’ each New Moon.** They say, “The return to a Saturday Sabbath and the celebration of a ‘day of adoration’ beginning with a communion service at sundown of every new moon. The establishment of a Saturday Sabbath is part of the Mosaic Law given to former-day Israel. . . . Rosh Chodesh is a Hebrew minor holiday marking the beginning of each new month. It is also part of the Mosaic Law. (Num. 10:10). To return to a Saturday Sabbath or to return to any portion of the Mosaic Law is to return to an imperfect law and one that was fulfilled in Christ. Paul made this very clear emphasizing . . . the fact that Christ nailed the former ordinances to His cross specifically identifying the Sabbath and new moons (Col. 2:12–16)” (ibid., 2). [*PPC Note: RLDS DC 119:7 basically settled this question. It says that until further revelation is received (i.e. from the RLDS Church’s Prophet), or until the people decide to change the law of the Church by means of a decision made by all of the quorums, that we are to continue to observe Sunday as our Sabbath day.*]
- **Wrong to teach “The righteous must leave Zion for eight years while it is destroyed and cleansed.”** (ibid., 2)
- **Wrong to frighten and threaten people into following Joseph F.** They say, “We are further concerned that . . . some advocates are framing [their actions] in terms that can make people fearful of not following them. Joseph F. likes the analogy of Noah and the ark, implying that those people not on the ark of the restructured church will be destroyed. . . . Telling the saints that they must accept Joseph F. as the prophet or suffer judgment is wrong” (ibid., 3).
- **Wrong to rewrite a “revelation” from God, and mislead and “cover up” what and why it was changed.** [*Note: Starting on page 3 of this report, the rewriting of Mauricio’s December 2018 revelation is treated, but that was not the first such incident of such a rewriting, as the witnesses’ following complaint details*]: They say, “On August 3, 2018, the witnesses received a communication from Mauricio Berger . . . of which was an attached ‘revelation’ that he had received from God. . . . Joseph F. Smith took umbrage to a number of the items that the revelation contained. . . . We understood that the difficulty

between Joseph and Mauricio was [later] resolved. On November 3, the witnesses received a corrected copy of the August 3 revelation. Joseph said that when he confronted Mauricio with the issues he had with the August 3 revelation, in many cases, Mauricio commented that they were translation errors. . . . A side-by-side comparison of the August 3 revelation and its November 3 revision showed, however, that major portions of the revelation had been removed and replaced. These changes could not be attributed to translation errors. In many cases, the portion that Joseph had disagreed with had been re-written to make them more agreeable for him, although Joseph still thinks that they are corrections of a bad translation. He was only told the original revelation was not translated correctly. This re-writing and its attempted cover-up are disconcerting to us. Mauricio has been invited to comment further but has not” (ibid., 3).

- **Wrong to teach people to silently accept discrepancies as proof they have faith.** (ibid., 3)
- **Original plan how “sealed portion” was to be studied and published has gone awry.** They say, “We did not [get to] read the Sealed Book and cannot endorse or criticize it at this time” (ibid., 3–4).
- **New church and prophet were not part of the original deal.** They say, “During the time we [the witnesses] were all there, [in Brazil] there was no mention about restructuring the church or ordaining Joseph as prophet” (ibid., 4).

Additional Statement by Zarahemla Pastoral Team

At the bottom of the above letter signed by Bob Moore and Brad Gault was a separate addendum signed by the Zarahemla pastoral team (Brad Gault, Dean Falconer, and Abe Forth). PPC originally interpreted that addendum as being an original part of the letter by Moore and Gault, but it *is* separate. (Moore signed the letter, Gault signed the letter and addendum, and Falconer and Forth signed the addendum, but not the letter.)

The addendum (signed by Gault, Falconer, and Forth) stated, “Because of these scriptural contradictions contained in the teachings coming from the effort to restructure the original church, we cannot recommend that the saints join it. After discussion and prayer, we, the pastorate of the Zarahemla Branch, recommend that our branch remain un-tethered from this emerging church” (ibid., 4).

* * * * *

Conclusion

If the Saints accept the fabrications of Mauricio Berger and Joseph F. regarding the history of the Restoration and Reorganization, the role of angels, and the nature, authority, and destiny of the priesthood, then they must discard Joseph Smith Jr.’s teachings on those very same subjects. The Saints must now choose whether to follow the Gospel teachings of Joseph Smith Jr., or the false teachings that the Brazil Faction’s new church has conjured up!

ENDNOTES

¹ (Page 1) <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/113557945>, video time markers 1:31:42—1:31:57; plus 1:33:50-1:34:32 (especially the first portion 1:33:50-1:34:03).

² (Page 1)

<https://bsd.sos.mo.gov/Common/CorrespondenceItemViewHandler.ashx?IsTIFF=true&filedDocumentid=13869956&version=2&fbclid=IwAR1goYhFtkspjRgjR6O5UsOYQXiAPVg5ySkVtDyxgLkFP128uXHtvHN-Nq4>

³ (Page 1) <https://thecauseofzion.org/11-11-2018-sister-robertas-testimony/>

⁴ (Page 1) https://cocatalog.loc.gov/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?Search_Arg=Sealed+Book+of+Mormon&Search_Code=TALL&PID=wQY7eKaQj6zqfaREUaGrBbbDo66ZN&SEQ=20190126133603&CNT=25&HIST=1

⁵ (Page 2) <https://thecauseofzion.org/2018/08/27/church-name/>

⁶ (Page 3) Originally at: <https://thecauseofzion.org/ordination-of-joseph-f-smith-high-priest-president-of-the-high-priesthood/?fbclid=IwAR3NDtIHIFqTU4zPzFthgzDHIZ7lcSAGz1mZ9CWPLrscheMjL8AGb7crV5w>

But moved to: <https://thecauseofzion.org/ordination-of-joseph-f-smith-high-priest/>

⁷ (Page 8) First Version, dated December 16, 2018, appeared on that date at: <https://thecauseofzion.org/12-16-2018-message-to-the-church-in-zion/>

Revised Version, dated December 18, 2018, appeared on that date at: <https://thecauseofzion.org/minor-priesthood-authority-2/>

⁸ (Page 15) When I (the author) was in Jerusalem, I inspected the site that is said to be where the original “Upper Room” was where Jesus first performed this ordinance (the original building reportedly having been demolished before or during the Crusades, and a replacement structure having been built since on the original ruins). I there saw how the typical “upper room” (where meals were often served) in such inns had many pegs in the walls where visitors, upon entering, would hang their outer coats or robes. A tour guide and scholar there informed me that—according to the meaning of the original wording, and millennia-old regional customs—the reference in the book of John that Jesus “laid aside his garments” should be interpreted to mean that Jesus removed only his outer coat or robe, as was the custom at mealtime.

⁹ (Page 17) Quoted from Reuben Miller’s Journal, 21 Oct. 1848; per Endnote 42 at <https://www.lds.org/ensign/1996/12/the-restoration-of-the-aaronic-and-melchizedek-priesthoods?lang=eng&r=1#note42>; Note: Misspellings are from the original.

¹⁰ (Page 17) Statement of Oliver Cowdery to Samuel W. Richards, 13 Jan. 1849, quoted in *Deseret Evening News*, 22 March 1884, 2; statement of Samuel W. Richards concerning meeting with Oliver Cowdery in January 1849, Salt Lake City, 21 May 1907, MS 3703, LDS Church Archives; per Endnote 43 at <https://www.lds.org/ensign/1996/12/the-restoration-of-the-aaronic-and-melchizedek-priesthoods?lang=eng&r=1#note43>