

# *Strategies with Latter-day Saints*

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## Welcome to STS Ministries!

### Our Mission

Share the Son Ministries (STS) is an evangelical Christian organization with a three-fold mission:

- **Share** the biblical teachings of God, Jesus and the Gospel in a Christ-like manner (e.g. [Romans 10:13-15](#); [Mark 16:15-16](#));
- **Defend** the biblical teachings of God, Jesus and the Gospel in a Christ-like manner (e.g. [1 Peter 3:15](#); [Acts 18:27-28](#));
- **Equip** others to do the same (e.g. [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#); [Ephesians 4:11-13](#)).



Based in beautiful Idaho Falls, **STS Ministries has a passion for all of the wonderful people who refer to themselves as Latter-day Saints** (LDS). This is because southeast Idaho is predominantly LDS with some cities, such as Rexburg (home of BYU-Idaho), being well over ninety-percent LDS by population. To be sure, STS is strategically located so that evangelical Christians and Latter-day Saints might share with and learn from one another.

### Our Challenge

Consider the following statistics for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for 2013:

- 15,372 million members world-wide:



## *Strategies with LDS (Step 2 of 3)*

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- Identify 3 critical considerations.
- Layout a typical sharing scenario.
- Integrate practical strategies.
- Correct common mistakes Christians make.
- Step 2 is **APOSTASY & PRIESTHOOD**.

# 3 CRITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

1. Prep the Soil & Lower the Guard.
  - a. **Seeing Christ** vs. hearing you
  - b. Seeing vs. agreeing (validate to demonstrate)
  - c. **Invest 95 to get 5** (validate to educate)
  - d. Common ground & **compliments**
  - e. Respect the ranks
2. The window rules! “Go to the Gospel!”
3. Rate of return vs. one and done.

# APOSTASY & PRIESTHOOD

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**APOSTASY** – When individuals or groups of people turn away from the principles of the gospel, they are in a state of apostasy. One example is **the Great Apostasy, which occurred after the Savior established His Church.** After the deaths of the Savior and His Apostles, men corrupted the principles of the gospel and made unauthorized changes in Church organization and priesthood ordinances. Because of this widespread apostasy, **the Lord withdrew the authority of the priesthood from the earth.** This apostasy lasted until Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son appeared to **Joseph Smith in 1820 and initiated the restoration of the fulness of the gospel.**

Quoted from Gospel Topics on [www.LDS.org](http://www.LDS.org)

# APOSTASY & PRIESTHOOD

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**MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD** – Through the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood, Church leaders guide the Church and direct the preaching of the gospel throughout the world. In the ordinances of the Melchizedek Priesthood, “the power of godliness is manifest” (D&C 84:20). This greater priesthood was given to Adam and has been on the earth whenever the Lord has revealed His gospel. It was taken from the earth during the Great Apostasy, but it was restored in 1829, when the Apostles Peter, James, and John conferred it upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery.

Quoted from Gospel Topics on [www.LDS.org](http://www.LDS.org)

# APOSTASY & PRIESTHOOD

## Key Strategic Points:

1. Without **The Great Apostasy**, the Melchizedek priesthood authority would **NOT** have been taken from the earth.
2. If **the Melchizedek priesthood authority** was not taken from the earth, there would have been **NO NEED** to restore it.
3. If there was no to restore the Melchizedek priesthood authority, there would have been **NO NEED for Joseph Smith**, the founding prophet of the LDS Church.
4. Therefore, the existence of the LDS Church hangs on **these two Mormon doctrines**.



# APOSTASY & PRIESTHOOD

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“Tell me about The Great Apostasy and the restoration of the Melchizedek priesthood.”

## 1. The Strategy

- a. Soil & guard
- b. Cards on the table
- c. Create cognitive dissonance
- d. “Contrast brings clarity”



# THE GREAT APOSTASY

“Tell me about The Great Apostasy.”

1. LDS biblical proof texts (Isa. 24:5; Amos 8:11-12; Mt. 24:4-14; **Acts 20:28-30**; 2 Tim. 3:1-5,14-15; 4:3-4)
  - a. Clarify: “The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord’s kingdom **once again established** on the earth” (INTRODUCTION to the BoM).
  - b. Validate to demonstrate (apostasies, yes!)
  - c. Validate to educate (extent and result, no!)

# THE GREAT APOSTASY (1 of 3)

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## Matthew 16:15-18 (NIV2011)

<sup>15</sup> “But what about you?” he [Jesus] asked. “Who do you say I am?”

<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

<sup>17</sup> Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

<sup>18</sup> And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

# THE GREAT APOSTASY (1 of 3)

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“and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Mt. 16:18)

1. Explain, then contrast with The Great Apostasy (i.e. no true church, and no true gospel).
2. Emphasize “no kingdom” for 1,700 years years!
3. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

# THE GREAT APOSTASY (2 of 3)

## Romans 11:1-4 (NIV2011)

<sup>1</sup> I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.

<sup>2</sup> God did not reject his people, **whom he foreknew**. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about **Elijah**—how he appealed to God against Israel:

<sup>3</sup> **"Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"?**

<sup>4</sup> And what was **God's** answer to him? **"I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal."**

# THE GREAT APOSTASY (2 of 3)

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## Romans 11:5-6 (NIV2011)

<sup>5</sup> So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

<sup>6</sup> And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

1. Compare “the Elijah error” & The Great Apostasy vs. apostasies.
2. Point out the “grace” and “works” antithesis.
3. Connect to Jesus in **Mt. 16**.
4. “Can you see?” “What do you think?”

# THE GREAT APOSTASY (2 of 3)

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# THE GREAT APOSTASY (3 of 3)

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## Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV2011)

<sup>20</sup> Now to him ["God"] who is able to do **immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine**, according to his power that is at work within us,

<sup>21</sup> **to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.**

1. Explain, then contrast with The Great Apostasy vs. apostasies.
2. Connect to Paul in **Ro. 11** and Jesus in **Mt. 16**.
3. "Can you see?" "What do you think?"



# MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD

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“Tell me about the Melchizedek priesthood.”

1. LDS biblical proof texts (**Gen. 14:18**; Mt. 10:1; 17:1-13)
  - a. Confirm the LDS position on OT & NT Melchizedek priesthood holders.
  - b. Validate to demonstrate (“I can see ...”)
  - c. Validate to educate (next slide)

# MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD

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1. Validate to Educate
  - a. Confirm that Melchizedek and Christ are **clearly and specifically** shown to possess the Melchizedek priesthood (Gen.14:18; Heb. 7:20-22).
  - b. Explain exclusivity & invite LDS to demonstrate otherwise (note LDS argument from silence).
  - c. Take to biblical texts & explain exclusivity.

# MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD (1 of 3)

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## Hebrews 7:11 (NIV2011)

<sup>11</sup> If perfection could have been attained through **the Levitical priesthood**—and indeed the law given to the people established that priesthood—why was there still need for another priest to come, **one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?**

## Hebrews 7:23-24 (NIV2011)

<sup>23</sup> **Now there have been many of those [Levitical] priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;**

<sup>24</sup> **but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.**

# MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD (1 of 3)

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## Hebrews 7:23-24 (NIV2011)

<sup>23</sup> Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office;

<sup>24</sup> but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood.

1. Explain, then contrast with the LDS doctrine.
2. Connect to exclusivity in the Bible.
3. Explain and compare Melchizedek's "resembling the Son of God" ([Heb. 7:3](#)) to "a copy and shadow" of "the true sanctuary" ([Heb. 8:1-5; 9:24](#)).
4. "Can you see?" and "What do you think?"

# MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD (2 of 3)

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## Hebrews 7:26 (NIV2011)

<sup>26</sup>Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.

1. Contrast qualifications of Levitical high priests.
2. Connect to exclusivity of mention in the Bible.
3. “Can you see?” and “What do you think?”

# MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD (3 of 3)

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## Exodus 19:6 (NIV2011)

<sup>6</sup> you [“the people of Israel”] will be for me [the LORD God] **a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.** These are the words you [Moses] are to speak to the Israelites.”

## 1 Peter 2:9 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> But you [“God’s elect”] are a chosen people, **a royal priesthood, a holy nation,** God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1. Explain: All Christians are priests as were all Israelites in the general sense. A minority of Israelites held the Levitical priesthood as ONLY Christ holds the Melchizedek priesthood in the specific sense.
2. “Can you see?” and “What do you think?”

# **INCREASE RATE OF RETURN!**

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“I’d love to know more about the LDS gospel and **how we can live with our Heavenly Father forever.**”

“Can we talk about this the next time we get together?”