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We read in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, <sup>the</sup> Lord declaring as one of the signs of the approaching end of ~~the dispensation~~ this dispensation that this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come.

Through one of his prophets. This "End" that the Lord spoke of was described ~~by the Prophet Malachi~~.

He says this earth shall "burn as an oven", and that the ~~wick~~ wicked shall be as stubble, and shall be consumed for "the day that cometh shall burn them up." (Mal 4:1-6) ~~IN ADDITION TO THE GOSPEL BEING PREACHED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD~~

We remember too that the Lord said through his Prophet Malachi that ~~in addition to the gospel being preached throughout the world (there would be another characteristic of the last days. - That before that great and dreadful day of the Lord, Elijah the prophet would be sent with a particular mission to turn the hearts of the children to the fathers and the fathers to the children - Lest, the Savior says, - lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.~~

There are some interesting things about this prophecy. First - it has a definite time element.

It is noted that Elijah is to come to the earth before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

We are living in the period immediately preceding that day ~~of the Lord~~

By the signs of the times - we know that Christ's coming is near.

Then - by the same token - we may know that the coming of Elijah was reserved for the period of time in which we live. - That his coming ~~was~~ <sup>must</sup> be in the near future or the recent past.

The mission of Elijah was plainly outlined. - It was to establish a bond of interest between the present and past generations, and to "turn the heart of the children to their fathers."

To be more <sup>SPECIFIC</sup> ~~precise~~ - the purpose of Elijah's ~~own~~ coming was to create in the hearts ~~of~~ living persons, an interest in their ancestors.

Since this purpose was so definitely stated and established by ~~scripture~~ scripture, it remains only for us to determine if he has yet come.

To answer this, we need only ask if there has been a recently developed and widespread interest among living men and women regarding their forefathers?

We know that this widespread interest is among us. We read of this interest not only in the church, but in newspaper and magazine articles almost every day.

a. { One missionary, ~~reporting to the high council recently,~~ told of a woman in his mission down ~~near~~ South that had her genealogy done back for several generations - ready to send to Salt Lake. - She was a member of the Methodist church.

2  
About one hundred <sup>60</sup> ~~forty~~ years ago, the promise that the savior made in regard to the mission of Elijah, was fulfilled.

He appeared to the Prophet Joseph, and Oliver Cowdery, in the Temple at Kirtland, and there bestowed upon them the keys of the sealing power of the priesthood.

~~XX~~

Without the coming of Elijah, there would be <sup>Little</sup> ~~not~~ need for temples.

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This coming of Elijah is one of the vital things in the history of this world. It is vital to every person who has ever lived upon the face of the earth.

It might be interesting to note that before that great event in 1836 - the appearance of Elijah to restore the keys of sealing, there was very little endeavor to search the records of the dead.

What was done, here and there was usually where some estate was involved. The people were not turning their hearts to their fathers. They were not searching the records. they were not compiling them.

There were no organizations or societies that anyone seems to know about before that important date in 1836.

One year later, however, in 1837, Great Britian passed laws that provided for and compelled the preservation of records of the dead.

In 1844, the New England Historical and Genealogical Society was organized in Boston and this could well be the first organization of this kind in the world.

In 1869, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society ~~in the city of New York~~ was organized.

Then followed rapidly other societies throughout the states then in existance.

We know too that their are many many societies in Great Britian and throughout ~~any~~ other lands in europe from wherfe many of our people have come.

We ~~are aware~~ <sup>know</sup> that this spirit has taken hold of the people - not only in the Church - but ~~also~~ many who are not of the Church. They too are searching the records and compiling them, - of the dead.

It might be interesting to note here <sup>393-1182 out</sup> ~~that on this day there is much activity~~ <sup>9</sup> ~~that~~ 38 out of 172 visits to the Genealogical Library ~~was~~ in Mesa in ~~November~~ - or ~~over~~ <sup>one sixth</sup> of the visits was made by non-members of the Church. ~~and in January~~

I dont believe there is any ~~work~~ area of church work where their has been more personal revelation involved ~~and~~ or where their has been a greater manifestation of the divinity of this work than there has been in Genealogy and temple work.

I believe we are aware of this. In some instances, there has been ~~testimony~~ <sup>testimony</sup> of audible communication from beyond the veil.

3

Who is this Elijah whom the Lord said through his prophet Malachi, ~~that~~ ~~the~~ had keys of sealing to deliver, that would prevent the smiting of the earth with a curse - or that the earth would not be wasted at ~~the~~ coming of the Lord. H15

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This Prophet Elijah whose mission was to turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers?

President Joseph Fielding Smith said that it seems to be most fitting that the last of the old prophets should close his words with a promise to future generations, and in that promise predict a time to come when there would be a linking of the dispensations past with those of later times. *we note the promise with a man in the past and with a etc*

~~The~~ ~~in~~ prophetic words of Malachi seem to be a great mystery to some of the bible commentators of the world.

This is especially true of his declaration of the coming of Elijah. *As shown in the scriptures*  
They fail to understand that it is both possible and reasonable for an ancient prophet who lived nearly one thousand years before the time of Christ to be sent with such a remarkable power as that described by Malachi and possessed by Elijah.

Some have believed that this prophecy was fulfilled with the coming of John the Baptist, as an Elias - or a forerunner - one who is to prepare the way - with power to turn the hearts of fathers to children and children to fathers. title

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~~Elias is more than a proper name - it is a~~  
John came in the spirit and power of Elias - but not with the mission to be fulfilled by Elijah. - The keys of sealing power.

Paul in writing to the Ephesian saints, told them that in the dispensation of the fulness of times, the Father was to gather in one, all things in Christ - "both which are in heaven and which are on earth". (Eph.1:10)

*Generalization of power*  
~~does not~~ ~~that~~ indicate a power that extends from the earth to the heavens.

Christ's disciples knew that the time of the restitution was not to come until the time approached for the second coming of the Savior, and it was to be in that day that Elijah was to bring back to earth his priesthood and restore to men the power to seal on earth and in heaven, so that mankind might have the means of escape from the destruction which awaited the wicked in that great and dreadful day of the Lord that is referred to in the scriptures.

That great and dreadful day can be no other time but the coming of Christ to establish his kingdom, ~~and to cleanse the earth from iniquity~~ - and to cleanse the earth from iniquity.

It will not be a day of fear ~~and~~ in the hearts of the righteous, but

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it will be a great day of fear and terror to the ungodly.

This we have learned from the words of our Savior himself, as he taught his disciples.

OK You know, when Moroni appeared to Joseph Smith on September 23, 1823, ~~he spoke an interpretation of the words of Malachi.~~ He quoted the words thusly:

"Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

"And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers.

"If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming." (D&C 2:1-3)

HR ~~He~~ informed Joseph Smith that this prediction <sup>- OF MALACHI</sup> was about to be ~~fulfilled~~ fulfilled.

The fulfillment came some twelve years later - on April 3, 1836.

On this day, Elijah conferred upon ~~him~~ the Prophet Joseph and Oliver Cowdery, in the Kirtland Temple, his priesthood - which is the power to bind or seal on earth and in heaven.

~~As~~ as we previously stated - the keys of this priesthood were held by Elijah.

It has the authority to seal for time and eternity ~~and to give~~ all the ordinances pertaining to the fullness of salvation.

~~The Prophet Joseph himself said that Elijah was the last of the prophets to hold this priesthood.~~

Without this authority, none of these ordinances ~~would~~ of salvation or exaltation could be performed in righteousness.

President Joseph Fielding Smith said that the restoration of this authority is the leaven that saves the earth from being utterly wasted at the coming of Jesus Christ. And in his statement he further mentioned that there would be only confusion and disaster should Christ come and the power of sealing not be here.

~~In this dispensation - the dispensation of the fullness of times, - in this day of restoration, - it was necessary that Elijah come with the sealing power to make valid all the ordinances and ceremonies of the gospel, so that they are recognized in the heavens and before the throne of God.~~

in fulfillment of  
Elijah was one of the greatest of prophets. He came ~~to fulfill~~ the prophecy of Malachi. The sealing power of the priesthood has been restored. We of this Church proclaim it throughout the length and breadth of the earth. - We do it in the name of Jc.

8

Elijah the prophet left such an impression upon his time that the legends and stories about him are legion.

When the religious situation in Israel seemed hopeless as a result of the tyranny of Jezebel and Ahab, Elijah stepped forward to stem the tide. BY UN-GODLINESS.

Using the key of the ~~real~~ power of the Priesthood vested in him, Elijah stood before Ahab, the King of Israel, and said:

"As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years but according to my word." AND THERE COME A GREAT DROUGHT

During the ensuing draught, the Lord directed Elijah to the brook ~~near~~, near the Jordan. There he had water to drink, and ravens brought him food miraculously to sustain him.

When the brook dried up during the extended drought, the Lord sent Elijah to a widow woman ~~in the land of Sidon~~ who had been commanded to sustain the prophet during the extended drought in Israel.

The scriptural account of how Elijah, through his marvelous powers, caused her barrell of meal and cruse of oil to fail not, are well known.

He went far in stemming the tide of pagan religion in Israel.

In a test of the powers of Baal and Jehovah, the Lord had shown his hand, ~~to the satisfaction of the people,~~ and the prophets of Baal were slain.

The Prophet Elijah then ~~prayed~~ <sup>prayed</sup> for rain and it came down in torrents.

The Prophet Joseph Smith said that "The spirit, power, and calling of Elijah is, that we have power to hold the key of the revelation, ordinances, oracles, powers, and endowments of the fulness of the Melchizedek Priesthood and of the kingdom of God on the earth; and to receive, obtain, and perform all the ordinances belonging to the Kingdom of God, even unto the turning of the hearts of the fathers, unto the children, and the hearts of the children unto their fathers, even those who are in heaven." (History of the Church, Vol. VI, pp, 250-1)