

# *Elder James E. Faust*

Oct. 2, 1994, General Conference

## The Keys That Never Rust

### Literary Structuring

ISAIAH 29:15,16

- A Woe to those who *contrive*
  - B to *hide their schemes* from the Lord!
  - C They *work in the dark*, thinking,
  - C *Who will see us?*
  - B *Who will know?*
  - A What a *contradiction* you are!
- (Avraham Gileadi Translation)

by Sterling D. Allan

*Greater Things*

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## Oct. 2, 1994 General Conference Talk

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- A few months ago,
- my beloved Ruth,
  - Elder Holland
  - and his sweet Patty,
  - and I
  - accompanied **a group**

A into the fascinating

B *old city*

B of *Jerusalem* [Matt. 23:37,38; D&C 112:25,26.]

C to **look for the door** [2 Ne. 9:41; JST-Mark 9:44-48; Isa. 66:24; 3 Ne. 14:22-23.]

C with the name of **Hyde** carved on it. [See note 1→]

B The *enchanted smells* of the open containers of spices

B and the *sounds of men selling their wares*

A were exhilarating. [Rev. 18:3; Ezk. 22:25-29; Matt. 23:28.]

NOTE 1: When assembled at Orson **Hyde's** home, at **Hyde** Park, Iowa, the following manifestation came to the Quorum of the Twelve, approximately three and one half years after Joseph Smith's martyrdom:

"The *voice of God* came from on high, and spake to the Council. *Every latent feeling was aroused, and every heart melted.* What did it say unto us? 'Let my servant Brigham step forth and receive the full power of the presiding Priesthood in my Church and kingdom.'"

(*Journal of Discourses* 8:234.)

A As we entered St. *Savior's* Monastery,

B-1 looking for the door,

B-2 we entered into old passageways

B-3 surrounded by *stone walls*.

B-4 We were told that some parts of the *walls*

B-5 went back to the time of the Crusaders.

C On one wall hung an *assortment*

D of ancient rusted keys.

E Some of these keys

F were huge.

G All

F were larger than

E the keys

D we use today.

C Many of them were very *ornate*.

B-1 Many of the doors

B-2 the *keys were made to open*

B-3 *no longer exist*,

B-4 or if they do, the *keys and the locks*

B-5 would be *too rusty*

A to *open* them.

a Today I speak

b of keys other than those of metal.

c The keys I speak of never rust.

d These are the *keys of life*

e and *salvation in the kingdom of God*.

a The Prophet Joseph Smith said,

b "I will give you a key

c that will never rust,

d if you will *stay with the majority of the Twelve Apostles, and the records of the Church*,

e you will **never be led astray**." (Quoted in *Young Woman's Journal*, Dec. 1906, p. 543.)

• The Prophet also stated: "The Priesthood is everlasting.

a The Savior, Moses, and Elias,

b gave

B c the keys to Peter, James, and John, **on the mount**, when they were transfigured before him." (*TPJS*, p. 158.)

### KEY

#### WORD/PHRASE SET MATCHES:

! Double Und. = identical, rare

! Underlined = word-for-word

! Und. Ital. = synonymous

! *Italics* = similar

! **Bold / CAPS** = emphasis

! [brackets] = editorial additions

(All text is quoted precisely as reported in the *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, pp. 72-74. See original text for complete footnotes -- most are abbreviated here.)

**a** Peter, James, and John**b** conferred**1c** the keys of the kingdom of God upon the Prophet Joseph**2c** and ordained him to be an Apostle**3c** and a special witness of the name of the Savior [See note 2→]**B** **4c** and to bear the keys of this ministry. (See D&C 27:12-13.)**5c** Keys that pertain to the gathering of Israel,**6c** the dispensation of Abraham,**7c** and, indispensably, the keys of sealing**b** were conferred upon the Prophet**a** by Moses, Elias, and Elijah in 1836. (See D&C 110.)

NOTE 2: Oliver Cowdery charged the Apostles:

"Never cease striving until you have **seen God face to face**.... Your *ordination is not full and complete* till God has laid his hand upon you. We require as much to qualify us as did those who have gone before us; God is the same."

(*History of the Church* 2:195,196)

**a-1** Prior to the Martyrdom, no doubt with a sense of foreboding, the Prophet Joseph prepared for his death.**a-2** President Joseph Fielding Smith states:**a-3** "The Prophet declared that he knew not why, but the Lord commanded him to **endow** the Twelve with these **keys** and priesthood,**a-4** and *after* it was done,**a-5** he **rejoiced** very much,**a-6** saying in substance,**a-7** "Now, if they kill me, you have all the keys and all the ordinances**b** and you can **confer** them**c** upon others,**d-1** and the powers of Satan**d-2** will not be able**d-3** to tear down**C** **e** the **kingdom****d-1** as fast as *you***d-2** will be able**d-3** to build it up,**c** and upon your shoulders**b** will the *responsibility of leading* this people *rest*." (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Doctrines of Salvation*, 1:259.)**a-1** After learning of the deaths of the Prophet Joseph and the Patriarch Hyrum,**a-2** Wilford Woodruff reports his meeting with Brigham Young,**a-3** who was then the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, as follows:**a-4** "I met Brigham Young in the streets of Boston, he having *just returned*, opposite to Sister Voce's house.**a-5** We reached out our hands, but neither of us was able to speak a word.... After we had done **weeping** we began to converse....**a-6** In the course of the *conversation*, he [Brigham Young] smote his hand upon his thigh and said,**a-7** "Thank God, the keys of the kingdom are here." (*Millennial Star*, 2 Sept. 1889, p. 546.)**D-1** **a** When Brigham Young returned to Nauvoo, Sidney Rigdon, who had been a *Counselor* to Joseph Smith,**D-2** **b** challenged**D-3** the leadership of the Brigham Young and the Apostles.**D-4** **c-1** Said Brigham Young to the Saints in meeting assembled, "If the people want**c-2** President Rigdon to lead them they may have him;**D-5** **d-1** but *I say unto you***d-2** that the Quorum of the Twelve have the keys of the kingdom of God**e** in **all** the world."**D-6** **d-1** He *continued*:**d-2** "I know *where* the keys of the kingdom are, and where they will eternally be.**D-7** **c-1** You cannot call**c-2** a man to be a prophet;**D-8** **b** you cannot take Elder Rigdon and *place him above* the Twelve;**a** if so, he must be *ordained* by them." (*History of the Church*, 7:233.)**a** Brigham Young, as the *President of the Quorum of the Twelve*,**b** subsequently became the President of the Church,**c** following**d** the Prophet Joseph Smith.

- III**
- a So it was
    - b with President Howard W. Hunter
  - Ⓔ c following
    - d the death of President Ezra Taft Benson.

- Ⓓ-1 As President Joseph Fielding Smith wrote:
- Ⓓ-2 "There is **no mystery**
- Ⓓ-3 about the choosing of the successor to the President of the Church.
- Ⓓ-4 The Lord settled this a long time ago,
- Ⓓ-5 and the senior apostle automatically becomes the presiding officer of the Church, and he is so sustained by the Council of the Twelve
- Ⓓ-6 which becomes the presiding body of the Church when there is no First Presidency.
- Ⓓ-7 The president is not elected,
- Ⓓ-8 but he has to be sustained both by his brethren of the Council and by the members of the Church." (*Doctrines of Salvation*, 3:156.)

- a On the fifth of June, 1994, the Quorum of the Twelve, of which President Hunter was then President,
  - b-1 collectively
  - b-2 holding
  - b-3 all of the keys of the kingdom, convened in the Salk Lake Temple.
    - c-1 President Howard W. Hunter
    - c-2 was then ordained and set apart by the Twelve,
    - c-3 with President Gordon B. Hinckley as voice for the Twelve.
- Ⓒ c-1 President Hunter
- c-2 thus became the President
- c-3 and legal administrator of the Church,
  - b-1 and the only man
  - b-2 authorized to dispense, oversee, and exercise
  - b-3 all of the keys of the kingdom of God on earth.
- a He also became the successor to the keys held by Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, Heber J. Grant, George Albert Smith, David O. McKay, Joseph Fielding Smith, Harold B. Lee, Spencer W. Kimball, and Ezra Taft Benson.

- Ⓕ a The keys given by the Savior
  - b to Peter, James, and John,
- a and given by them
  - b to the Prophet Joseph,

Ⓐ have not rusted.

- A-1 They will open **all** spiritual doors of the dispensation of the **fullness** of times.
- A-2 They are now exercised by
- A-3 President Howard W. Hunter,
- A-4 his Counselors in the First Presidency,
- A-5 and the Quorum of the Twelve, who serve under the direction of the First Presidency.
- B How long will these keys last?
  - C-1 President Wilford Woodruff stated:
  - C-2 "When the Lord gave the keys of the kingdom of God,
  - C-2 the keys of the Melchizedek Priesthood,
  - C-2 of the apostleship,
  - C-3 and sealed them upon the head of Joseph Smith, [note 3]
  - C-3 He sealed them upon his head
  - C-4 to stay here upon the earth
  - C-5 until the coming of the Son of Man.... [See note 4]
  - C-6 They were with him
  - C-7 to the day of this death.
  - C-8 They then rested
  - C-9 upon the head of another man....
  - C-10 He held those keys to the hour of his death.
  - C-11 They then fell by turn,

NOTE 3: Parley P. Pratt received the following revelation when grieving the death of Joseph Smith:

"Lift up your head and rejoice, for behold! it is well with my servants Joseph and Hyrum. My servant **Joseph** still holds the keys of my kingdom in this dispensation, and he shall stand in due time on the earth, in the flesh, and fulfil that to which he is appointed...."

(*Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt*.)

[See also D&C 112:15; 103:21.]

**V** D or in the providence of God,

## V D upon Wilford Woodruff. [Journal Notes 50:33.]

- C-1 "I say to the Latter day Saints  
 C-2 the keys of the kingdom of God  
 C-3 are here,  
 C-4 and they are going to stay here, too,  
 C-5 until the coming of the Son of Man. [See note 4 →]

[Omission] Let all Israel understand that. [See note after "b" below.]

### IV

- C-6 They may not rest upon my head  
 C-7 but a short time,  
 C-8 but they will then rest  
 C-9 on the head of another apostle,  
 C-10 and another after him,  
 C-11 and so continue

B until the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds of heaven to reward every man according to the deeds done in the body." (*Millennial Star*, 2 Sept. 1889, p. 574.) [Note 4; Dan. 7:13,14; D&C 116:1; 3 Ne. 21:24-26; Rev. 20:12; JS-Hist. 1:69.]

- A-1 There is only **one head** of this church, [D&C 10:65-69 = Isa. 55:1,2 = Rev. 22:17 = 2 Ne. 26:25-28 = 9:45,50,51; Matt. 23:37; Ezek. 34:11,12.]  
 A-1 and he is the *Lord Jesus Christ*. [John 15:15.]  
 A-1 He is the **head** of **all**. [John 15:15; Prov. 27:17; D&C 84:63,77.]  
 A-2 Under him stands  
 A-3 President Howard W. Hunter, the man whom the Lord has selected to stand at the head of the Church, [See Isa. 66:1-15 & II Thes. 2 Parallel: #6,16,17; by Sterling D. Allan, 4/6/95]  
 A-4 with his Counselors in the First Presidency  
 A-5 and the Quorum of the Twelve.

NOTE 4: Joseph Smith taught that:  
 "...The Ancient of Days (Adam)...will call his children together and hold a council with them to **prepare** them for the coming of the Son of Man. ...All that have had the keys must stand before him in this grand council." (*TPJS*, p. 157.)

A All other organizations in the Church

B are subordinate

C to those who have these keys.

D Why are these spiritual keys so important?

- E-1 These spiritual keys hold "the right  
 E-2 to enjoy the blessing of communication with the heavens, [Ezk. 34:2; Alma 32:5,10,12; 2 Ne. 8:12,23-25 = D&C 113:7-10; See note 5a,b →]  
 E-1 and the privilege and authority  
 E-2 to administer in the ordinances of the gospel of Jesus Christ,  
 E-2 to preach the gospel of repentance, and of baptism by

immersion for the remission of sins." (Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed., p. 142.)

F-1 Keys of the **ministering of angels** are the right of the Aaronic Priesthood. (See D&C 27:12-13.)

F-2 The higher Melchizedek Priesthood "holdeth the key of the **mysteries of the kingdom,**

F-3 **even the key of the knowledge of God.**" (D&C 84:19.) [Luke 11:52; Matt. 23:13; Luke 1:77,79.]

G To be efficacious and valid, [Gileadi-Isaiah 32:6; 59:3,4.]

### III

H **every** act in the Church

G must be performed under the authority of the keys [Ezk. 34:10; JST-Matt. 23:55; Luke 1:74,75; D&C 10:67,68.]

F-1 at the appropriate time and place, [Msh. 18:9; 3 Ne. 27:21; John 14:12; Alma 29:8; Moroni 7:29,30,36,37.]

F-2 and in the proper manner [1 Ne. 10:19; Alma 26:22; 12:9.]

F-3 and order. [John 17:3; Alma 13:2,3,11; D&C 77:11; Jer. 31:34.]

E-1 The authority and power to direct [D&C 121:36-41.]

E-2 all of the labors of the kingdom of God on earth

D constitute the keys of the priesthood.

C Those who possess them

B have the right to preside over and direct

A the affairs of the Church in their jurisdiction.

NOTE 5A: Heber J. Grant conceded:  
 "John Taylor gave but one revelation during his presidency: and his successors promulgated no new revelations."  
 (*Conf. Report*, Apr. 1921, p. 220-

NOTE 5B: The closing statement of the *April, 1995 ENSIGN* article feature the new Presidency asserted: "The prayers and thoughts of members everywhere now go with President Hinckley and his counselors as they guide the affairs of the Church through the **inspiration** of the Lord Jesus Christ...."

- A-1 *Why*  
 A-2 is it so *necessary*  
 A-3 to *follow*  
 A-4 *those who have the keys* of the priesthood?
- B-1 *That principles has guided this church* and its people  
 B-2 *since the beginning*  
 B-3 and it is a *principle of revelation*.
- C-1 *Among the members of the Church*  
 C-2 have been the *living oracles* of God,  
 C-3 *who have held the keys* to direct this holy work.  
 C-4 Without *prophets, seers, and revelators*,  
 C-5 the Church and the kingdom of God cannot *grow and prosper*.  
 C-6 Valdesius, a citizen of Lyons, France, recognized the need for apostolic direction in the year 1170.  
 C-7 A rich man, he *abandoned his wealth so that he could live the simple life of a follower of Christ's Apostles*.  
 C-8 He *worked primarily among the poor* in and around Lyons  
 C-9 and had *parts of the Bible translated* into their language.  
 C-10 He and his followers *traveled two by two, teaching the simple truths of the Bible*.  
 C-11 Some *crossed the high mountains* of the Alps to live in the Piedmont Valleys of Italy. (See Giorgio Tourn, *The Waldensians: The First 800 Years*, trans. Camillo P. Merlino (Torino: Claudiana, 1980), pp. 3-4.)  
 C-12 **This valiant band**, who came to be known as **Valdensians** or **Vaudois**, were *viewed by their contemporaries as dangerous dissenters*.
- D-1 Over the centuries, they were "*burned at the stake, buried alive, stoned,... hanged, herded into...disease-laden dungeons,*  
 D-2 [and] *pursued...over rocks and crags and icy mountains.*" (Archibald F. Bennet, "The Vaudois Revisited," *Improvement Era*, Jan. 1948, p. 12.)  
 D-3 Yet they *clung* on tenaciously,  
 D-4 *turning back*  
 D-5 *whole armies of tyrants,*  
 D-6 to preserved their *precious heritage of faith*  
 D-7 in the early *Apostles*,  
 D-8 who *held the keys that never rust*.
- E-1 In 1655 their overlord, the Duke of Savoy, issued an edict that they were to *renounce or be massacred*. [1 Ne. 22:17; 14:14; 2 Ne. 31:17; Isa. 43:2.]  
 E-2 The ensuing *slaughter* [Alma 26:25; Rev. 14:13; 16:5; John 16:2,3]
- F-1 at last *awakened the conscience of some* of their neighbors, one of whom was John Milton, the great English poet.  
 F-2 *Repulsed*  
 F-3 *by this evil deed,*  
 F-4 *he penned*  
 F-5 *his sonnet* "On the Late Massacre in Piedmont":  
 F-6 *Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughtered saints,*  
 F-7 *whose bones Lie scatter'd*  
 F-8 *on the Alpine mountains cold.* (Ibid.)
- G-1 In 1850, Elder Lorenzo Snow of the *Council of the Twelve Apostles* of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints **ascended a very high mountain** near LaTour to visit the **Vaudois** of the Piedmont.  
 G-2 He and his two companions stood on a **bold projecting rock** where he proclaimed to them that *Joseph Smith has seen the Father and the Son* and had restored the gospel in its **fullness and completeness**. [See note 6]

## II

NOTE 6: The Prophet Joseph Smith taught:

"Moses sought to bring the children of Israel *into the presence of God*; through the power of the Priesthood, but he could not. In the first ages of the world they tried to establish the same thing; and there were Eliases raised up who tried to restore *these very glories*, but did not obtain them (Enoch did for himself and for those that were with Him, but not for the world. J.T.); but *they prophesied of a day when this glory would be revealed*." (TPJS, p. 159; and *The Words of Joseph Smith*, p. 10.)

## II

**G-1** He testified that the *keys* of the holy Apostleship had been restored.

**G-2** He further testified that there were indeed *living Apostles and prophets* upon the earth.

**F-1** *Many believed his startling message and joined the Church.* [Alma 24:24-27.]

**F-2** Moved

**F-3** by his experience with the Vaudois living in the Alpine mountain valleys,

**F-4** President Snow cited

**F-5** the stirring words:

**F-6** *For the strength of the hills we bless thee, Our God, our father's God:*

**F-7** *Thou hast made thy children mighty*

**F-8** *By the touch of the mountain sod (Hymns, 1985, no. 35. Original text was a poem by Felicia D. Hemans, entitled "Hymn of the Vaudois Mountaineers in Times of Persecution.")*

**E-1** John Daniel Malan was the first of the Vaudois to be *baptized* on October 27, 1950, [Note 8s]

**E-2** *followed by the families* of the Cardons, Stalles, Beuses, Pons, Malans, Gaudins, Chatelains, and *many others*.

**D-1** Some were in the *first handcart companies*

**D-2** to come to the Salt Lake Valley in the early 1950s.

**D-3** These families *intermarried* into other well-known families in the western United States, including the Larsons, Maughans, Crocketts, Miners, Budes, Thatchers, Steeds, and Parkinsons. (Archibald F. Bennet, "The Vaudois of the Alpine Valleys in Their Contribution to Utah and Latter-day Saint History.")

**D-4** *Drawing from their roots* in the Vaudois mountain sod,

**D-5** many of their descendants tended the vineyards of the newly restored Church and today are *making singular contributions to the worldwide Church*,

**D-6** *believing, as did their forebears*,

**D-7** that Apostles

**D-8** hold the keys that never rust. [JST-Matt. 23:15.]

**C-1** I strongly counsel all who have membership in this church

**C-2** to follow the teachings and counsel

**C-3** of those who now have the keys

**C-4** as prophets, seers, and revelators.

**C-5** They are the ones who will *inspire us to deal with the vicissitudes of our time*.

**C-6** I plead with all not to try

**C-7** to *selectively invoke*

**C-8** *gospel principles*

**C-9** or scripture

**C-10** to wrongly justify *spiritual disobedience*,

**C-11** or to *separate themselves* from the responsibilities of covenants and ordinances

**C-12** *contrary to the counsel* of those who have the prophetic voice in the Church. [Matt. 23:29-36 JST-Mark 9:44-48 = Isa. 66:24; John 15:7; 2 Ne. 8:7-16; D&C 113:7-10; 133:66-73; 2 Cor. 10:4,5.]

**B-1** The scriptures and doctrines of the Church are not,

**B-2** as *Peter warned*,

**B-3** "of any *private interpretation*." (2 Pet. 1:20.) [JST 2 Pet. 1:20,21; 1 Cor. 2:10,15.]

**A-1** Great temporal and spiritual strength

**A-2** flows from

**A-3** following

**A-4** *those who have the keys* of the kingdom of God in our time.

**A-1** Personal strength and power

**A-2** result from

**A-3** obedience to eternal principles

**A-4** taught by the living legates of the Lord.

**A-1** May the Spirit of God

**A-2** rest upon us

**A-3** as we follow

**A-4** the living oracles. [See note 7]

NOTE 7: The Prophet Joseph Smith taught:

"What constitutes the kingdom of God? Where there is a *prophet*, a *priest*, or a *righteous man* unto whom God gives His oracles, there is the kingdom of God; and where the oracles of God are not, there the kingdom of God is not."

"...The plea of many in this day is, that we have not right to receive revelations; but *if we do not get revelations*, we do not have the oracles of God; and if they have not the oracles of God, they are not the people of God." (TPJS, p.271,2.)

- A As we **conclude** this historic conference,
- B-1** I am pleased to testify to the world of a very significant matter.
- B-2** As a special witness
- B-3** of the Lord Jesus Christ,
- C** I verify that among those who hold the keys
- D** of the kingdom of God on earth, [See note 8 ->]
- E** there is complete unity
- F** and love and respect for each other.
- G-1** We totally sustain and uphold [D&C 20:65; 26:2; .]
- G-2** President Howard W. Hunter, President Gordon B. Hinckley, and President Thomas S. Monson as the First Presidency.
- H-1** This feeling
- H-2** of complete unity
- H-3** and support of the First Presidency was expressed last Thursday in the Salt Lake Temple
- H-4** in a proclamation by President Byod K. Packer on behalf of the Twelve.
- I** This was joined in by President Rex D. Pinegar, representing the Seventies,
- I** and Bishop Merrill J. Bateman for the Presiding Bishopric.
- I** All of the General Authorities [Rev. 2:2; D&C 64:37-40; 50:4-8; 112:25,26; 114:2.]
- H-1** then voted
- H-2** to fully sustain
- H-3** the expressions
- H-4** of President Packer
- G-1** of full support
- G-2** for the First Presidency
- F** and for each other.
- E** In this unity,
- D** the gates of hell
- C** will not prevail against us. [Isa. 28:18,19.]
- B-1** I so testify
- B-2** and witness
- B-3** in the name of Jesus Christ,
- A** amen.

NOTE 8: Joseph Smith stated:

"Thus we behold the keys of this Priesthood consisted in obtaining the voice of Jehovah that He talked with him [Noah] in a familiar and friendly manner, that He continued to him the keys, the covenants, the power and the glory, with which He *blessed Adam at the beginning*; and the offering of sacrifice, which also shall be continued at the last time; for *all the ordinances and duties* that ever have been required by the Priesthood, under the directions and commandments of the Almighty in any of the dispensations, *shall all be had* in the last dispensation, therefore **all things** had under the authority of the Priesthood at any former period, shall be *had again*, bringing to pass the *restoration* spoken of by the mouth of all the Holy Prophets; then shall the sons of Levi offer and acceptable offering to the Lord."

## ISAIAH 32:8

But the noble are of noble intent,  
and stand up for what is virtuous  
(Avraham Gileadi Translation)