

# An Evolving Authority: The Priesthood Restoration Timeline



## The Official Narrative

The church teaches John the Baptist and Peter, James & John restored priesthoods in May 1829.

1829



## High Priesthood First Introduced

Two years after the supposed restoration, Joseph Smith himself is ordained to the "High Priesthood."

1831



## The Book of Commandments is Silent

The first book of revelations contains no mention of the 1829 visitations or specific priesthoods.

1834



## An Unnamed "Angel" First Mentioned

Amid leadership challenges, Oliver Cowdery first writes about an anonymous angel restoring authority.

1835



## The Story is Finalized & Retrofitted

The names "John the Baptist" and "Peter, James & John" first appear in church records.



## Earlier Revelations are Rewritten

Verses about the angelic visitations were added to earlier revelations in the 1835 Doctrine & Covenants.

## What Key Figures Said



"I never heard that an angel had ordained Joseph and Oliver to the Aaronic Priesthood until the year 1834, 35, or 36."

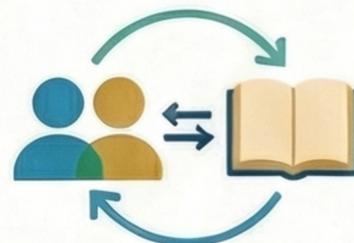
David Whitmer, one of the Three Witnesses to the Book of Marmon



"The late appearance of these priesthood restoration accounts raises the possibility of later fabrication."

Richard Bushman, LDS Historian and Biographer of Joseph Smith

## An External Influence?



Witness David Whitmer claimed the idea of two priesthoods originated with Sidney Rigdon, who converted in 1830.