
Official Declaration 2 — The Revelation on the Priesthood

A revelation received by President Spencer W. Kimball in the Salt Lake Temple, June 1, 1978, extending the priesthood to all worthy male members; announced and accepted by the Church in General Conference, September 30, 1978.

This is the canonized announcement of the 1978 revelation by which President Spencer W. Kimball extended the priesthood — and with it the blessings of the temple — to all worthy male members of the Church, without regard for race or color. For much of the Church's history, men of black African descent had not been ordained to the priesthood; this revelation removed that restriction entirely. It is one of the most joyful and consequential declarations in the Doctrine and Covenants.

Hebrew Word Studies

"all are alike unto God" (2 Nephi 26:33) — "the equal standing of every soul before God" the heading. The doctrinal anchor of Official Declaration 2 is the Book of Mormon's sweeping statement that the Lord "denieth none that come unto him, black and white, bond and free, male and female... and all are alike unto God" (2 Ne. 26:33). The Hebrew sensibility behind such language is that God is no "respector of persons" — He "regardeth not persons" (Deut. 10:17), a phrase Peter echoes at the very moment the gospel opens to the Gentiles: "God is no respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him... is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34–35). Official Declaration 2 stands in that same line: a revealed opening of the covenant's full blessings to all, on the one condition that has always mattered — worthiness, the heart that "feareth him." The Restoration's own scripture had taught the principle from the beginning; the 1978 revelation brought the practice into full accord with it.

From the Chapter's Architecture

```cross-references 2 Ne. 26:33; Acts 10:34–35; Deut. 10:17; D&C 1:30–34; D&C 136:1; D&C 26:2; D&C 110:13–16; D&C 138; Official Declaration 1; Gal. 3:28; Moses 1:39. ```