

What is the meaning of the word “patriarch”?

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Bible Dictionary:

“A patriarch is called an evangelist in [D&C 107:39–52](#).

As such, patriarch is an ordained office in the Melchizedek Priesthood. The fathers from Adam to Jacob were all patriarchs of this kind.

The word as used in the Bible seems to denote also a title of honor to early leaders of the Israelites, such as David ([Acts 2:29](#)) and the 12 sons of Jacob ([Acts 7:8–9](#)) ...; the Hebrew word it translates is simply father.”

- Ordained priesthood office
- Title of honor
- Father

Who served as the 1st patriarch in
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

Who served as the 2nd patriarch in
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints?

Was Hyrum Smith a father?

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Yes. Hyrum and Jerusha had six children. Jerusha died in 1837 soon after delivering an infant daughter. Hyrum then married Mary Fielding Smith. Mary became a widow when her husband was assassinated at Carthage Jail on June 27, 1844. Hyrum and Mary had two children, Joseph F. Smith and Martha Ann Smith. When the Saints left Nauvoo for the Salt Lake Valley after Joseph and Hyrum were martyred, Mary resolved to make the journey.

She and her family were assigned to a traveling group, and the captain told her that she would be a burden to others and shouldn't attempt the difficult journey.

Mary responded, "I will beat you to the valley and will ask no help from you either." The trek proved difficult, but she arrived with her family in Salt Lake on September 23, 1848, a day ahead of the captain who had doubted her.

What is the meaning of the word “matriarch”?

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From Latin meaning “mother”.

Joseph F. Smith stated: “The love of a true mother comes nearer to being like the love of God than any other kind of love.”

James E. Faust, Second Counselor in the First Presidency, explained, “Every father is to his family a patriarch and every mother a matriarch as coequals in their distinctive parental roles.” (James E. Faust, “The Prophetic Voice,” *Ensign*, May 1996, 6.)

What impact have Hyrum and Mary Fielding Smith's children had on our lives?

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Hyrum and Mary Fielding Smith's son, Joseph F. Smith, and grandson, Joseph Fielding Smith, became presidents of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

1st Joseph Smith Sr.

2nd Hyrum Smith

3rd John Smith

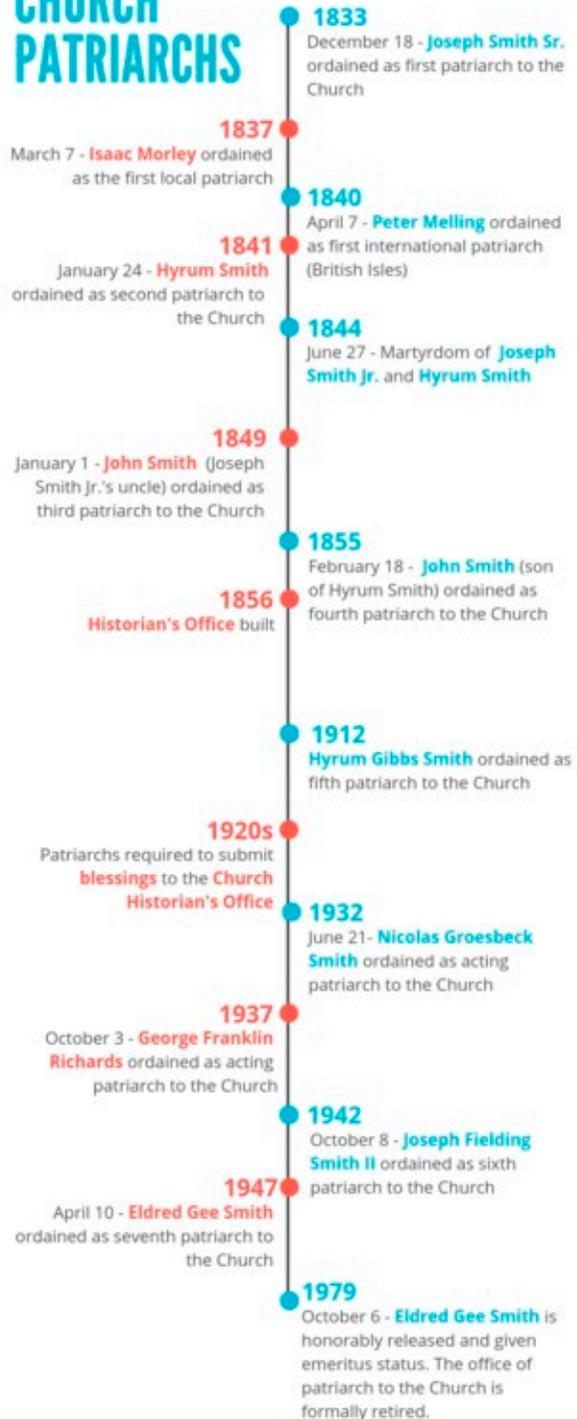
4th John Smith

5th Hyrum Gibbs Smith

6th Joseph Fielding Smith II

7th Eldred Gee Smith

A BRIEF HISTORY OF CHURCH PATRIARCHS



Now, what are your thoughts/questions?

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I have one. My blessing doesn't say I will come forth in the morning of the first Resurrection. It says I will participate in an early Resurrection. I wish I had had the inclination to ask the patriarch, but I didn't know enough back then and went off to college and never lived there after that.

I've prayed about it and know that in the temple my covenants cover that. I have just wanted to have some clarification.

>>> The words “first” and “early” seem to refer to the same thing, not a chronological event but a worthiness event. Chronologically, Jesus Christ was first. Those worthy of celestial glory will be resurrected prior to those of lesser glories .

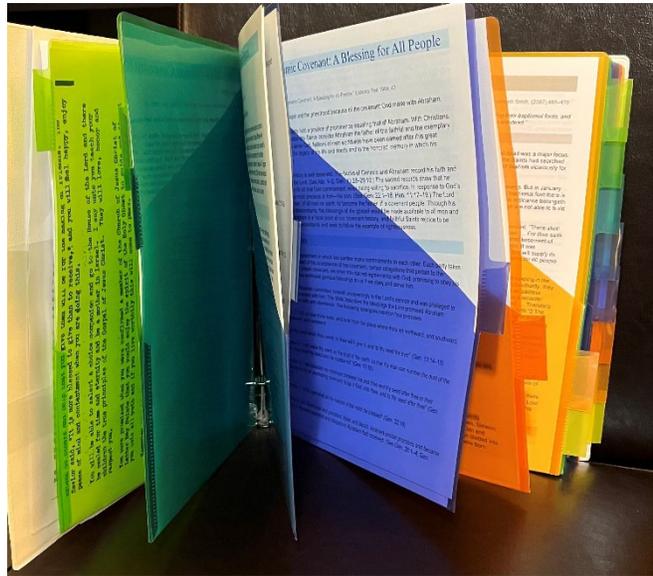
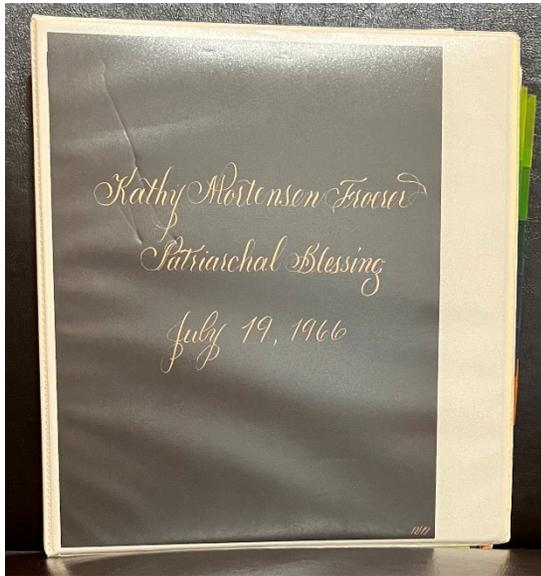
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How can I read my blessing in new ways that could open my eyes to something I might have been missing?

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How do I find meaning in a generic blessing? ...meaning there are no specifics.

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Are spiritual gifts revealed to motivate us, or to show us who we already are?

>>> Yes, Yes.

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Do you ever have people that want to redo their blessing?

>>> Yes. They should discuss any concerns with their bishop to see if it would be appropriate to receive an addendum or added paragraph to their blessing.

For example, an addendum would be appropriate if lineage wasn't pronounced.

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Do you notice common things said with different generations?

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In your experience and over the years, have you noticed an increase in “last days” rhetoric?

>>> President Russell M. Nelson has said: “My dear young brothers and sisters, these surely are the latter days, and the Lord is hastening His work to gather Israel.”

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What would you tell someone who is nervous about getting their blessing?

>>> Pray, Fast, and Speak with your bishop. You are also welcome to come to our home and discuss your concerns.

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What are some interesting facts about the roles of each tribe?

>>> There is one central role for each tribe:

**Gathering Israel  
and  
Come Unto Jesus Christ**

“All people can be gathered to Israel, either by direct descent or by adoption, which happens when they are baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” – ([New Era 2019/07 - 12 Facts about the gathering of Israel](#))

President Russell M. Nelson has said: “Anytime you do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—take a step toward making covenants with God and receiving their essential baptismal and temple ordinances, you are helping to gather Israel. It is as simple as that.”

“That gathering is the most important thing taking place on earth today. Nothing else compares in magnitude, nothing else compares in importance, nothing else compares in majesty. And if you choose to, if you want to, you can be a big part of it. You can be a big part of something big, something grand, something majestic!”

“When we speak of the gathering, we are simply saying this fundamental truth: every one of our Heavenly Father’s children, on both sides of the veil, deserves to hear the message of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. They decide for themselves if they want to know more.”

- President Russell M. Nelson, “[Hope of Israel](#)” (worldwide youth devotional, June 3, 2018), 19, [HopeofIsrael.ChurchofJesusChrist.org](http://HopeofIsrael.ChurchofJesusChrist.org).