

About Patriarchal Blessings

What is it? How do I get one? Why is it important? How can I prepare? Here are answers to some of the most commonly asked questions about patriarchal blessings.

What is a patriarchal blessing?

A patriarchal blessing has two main purposes. First, the patriarch will be inspired to declare your lineage—the tribe of Israel to which you belong. Second, guided by the spirit of prophecy and revelation, the patriarch will pronounce blessings and may also provide promises, counsel, cautions, or admonitions that apply specifically to you. Your patriarchal blessing may point out certain things you are capable of achieving and blessings you can receive if you exercise faith and live righteously.

Why is lineage important?

Every member of the Church is blessed through the Abrahamic Covenant and belongs to one of the twelve tribes of Israel. Those who aren't literal descendants are "adopted" into the house of Israel through baptism. Knowing your lineage can be a helpful guide in your life, because belonging to one of the twelve tribes brings the blessings and missions specific to each tribe. The patriarchal blessings Jacob gave his sons (the heads of each of the tribes) can be found in Genesis 49. You can read more about the Abrahamic Covenant in Abraham 2.

Who may give a patriarchal blessing?

Patriarch is actually an office in the Melchizedek Priesthood, just like elder or high priest; and a

patriarch is called and ordained specifically to give patriarchal blessings. You will receive your blessing from the patriarch in your stake. If you are a direct descendant of someone who is a patriarch (such as your grandfather), you may receive your blessing from him even if he doesn't live in your stake.

Who may receive a patriarchal blessing?

All worthy members of the Church are entitled to and should receive a patriarchal blessing regardless of how long they have been members.

How old do I have to be for a blessing?

There is no set age. You should be old enough and spiritually mature enough to appreciate the sacred nature of the blessing.

How is the blessing given?

The patriarch will place his hands on your head and give the blessing through inspiration. It will provide you with revealed direction. The blessing will be transcribed and sent to you within a few weeks so that you can have a written copy to study throughout your life. The Church will also keep a copy of your blessing in case you ever lose yours.

How do I get a patriarchal blessing?

Make an appointment for an interview with your bishop. He will determine your readiness and worthiness and either give you a recommend or help you prepare to receive one. After receiving a recommend the individual requesting a blessing should contact the patriarch to schedule an appointment. **The Eagle Mountain East Stake patriarch is Brother David Durfey, his telephone # is: 801-472-6201.**

Ask your bishop or the patriarch who may accompany you to your blessing, such as your parents. Remember to take your recommend to the appointment.

How do I know if I'm ready?

The desire to receive a patriarchal blessing should come from a sincere desire to know and live God's will for you. Curiosity or pressure from others isn't the right reason to get a blessing. The bishop will help determine if you are ready for the blessing.

How can I prepare?

You should do everything possible to draw closer to the Lord and be worthy of His Spirit. Prayer, fasting, scripture study, meditation, and repentance can help. Go to receive your blessing with an attitude of meekness and humility. Concerns about worldly things should be left behind for such a sacred occasion.

What should I wear?

You should wear Sunday clothes.

When will the promises in my blessing be fulfilled?

Occasionally patriarchal blessings reveal things from our pre-earth life. But mostly they are guides for present and future living. Because blessings are eternal in nature, they may include promises and possibilities beyond this mortal life.

Will all the promises in my blessing be fulfilled?

All blessings are based on your faithfulness and the Lord's timing. Blessings may also be fulfilled

in a variety of ways throughout your life, depending on your spiritual growth, obedience, capacity, and circumstances.

Should I let others read my blessing?

Your blessing is personal, between you and Heavenly Father. You might share your blessing with family members or others who are close to you. But blessings should be guarded and never compared with those of others.

A patriarchal blessing can be of great value throughout your life. Preparing for and living worthy of the promises in your blessing can bring you closer to your Heavenly Father in this life and help you return to live with Him.

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President Monson has said:

"The same Lord who provided a Liahona to Lehi provides for you and for me today a rare and valuable gift to give direction to our lives, to mark the hazards to our safety, and to chart the way, even safe passage—not to a promised land, but to our heavenly home. The gift to which I refer is known as your patriarchal blessing. Every worthy member of the Church is entitled to receive such a precious and priceless personal treasure. . . . Your patriarchal blessing is yours and yours alone. It may be brief or lengthy, simple or profound. Length and language do not a patriarchal blessing make. It is the Spirit that conveys the true meaning. Your blessing is not to be folded neatly and tucked away. It is not to be framed or published. Rather, it is to be read. It is to be loved. It is to be followed. Your patriarchal blessing will see you through the darkest night. It will guide you through life's dangers"

(President Thomas S. Monson in Conference Report, Oct. 1986, *Ensign*, Nov. 1986, 65- 66)