

Smith, Joseph Fielding. *DS* 2:119. Salt Lake City, 1954–1956.  
Talmage, James E. *The House of the Lord*, pp. 84–91. Salt Lake City, 1976.

PAUL V. HYER

### CANCELLATION OF SEALINGS

The KEYS of the kingdom of heaven, conferred upon Peter by the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:19) and restored to the earth in recent times (D&C 110) by the prophet ELIJAH, who was custodian of this power anciently (see Mal. 4:5–6), include the AUTHORITY to “bind and loose” on earth, with corresponding effect in heaven. Currently this power is held and exercised only by the PRESIDENT OF THE CHURCH and others upon whom it is conferred by him or at his direction. Once a sealing ORDINANCE is performed, only the First Presidency can approve a change in sealing status, including the cancellation of a sealing (*General Handbook of Instructions*, 6-5 through 6-7).

The First Presidency may cancel temple sealings when the circumstances of a request for cancellation warrant it.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

*General Handbook of Instructions*. Salt Lake City, 1989.

RONALD E. POELMAN

---

### SECOND COMFORTER

See: Jesus Christ, Second Comforter

---

### SECOND COMING OF JESUS CHRIST

[*The second coming of Jesus Christ refers to his return to the earth in glory to reign as King of Kings, as contrasted to his first coming as an infant in Bethlehem. Articles relevant to this topic are David, Prophetic Figure of Last Days; Dispensation of the Fulness of Times; Jesus Christ: Second Coming of Jesus Christ; Marriage Supper of the Lamb; Messiah: Messianic Concept and Hope; Millennium; Parables; Restoration of All Things.*

*Both the first and second appearances were foretold in the scriptures, with the second advent to be accompanied by earthshaking events of worldwide consequence. See Armageddon; Joseph Smith—Matthew; Last Days; Malachi, Prophecies of.]*

---

### SECOND ESTATE

“Second estate” is a Latter-day Saint term that refers to mankind’s mortal existence on this earth. In scripture it occurs only in the writings of ABRAHAM (Abr. 3:26), but the preearth life of spirits is called “their first estate” in Jude 1:6. Latter-day Saints believe that through the process of BIRTH, the spirit children of God who kept their FIRST ESTATE (premortal) enter into their second estate by receiving a PHYSICAL BODY with additional opportunities for experience and development. MORTALITY is then a probationary period in which individuals “prepare to meet God” (Alma 12:24). In the final JUDGMENT all MANKIND will “be judged of their works . . . which were done by the temporal body in their days of probation” (1 Ne. 15:32; cf. Alma 12:14). All who receive the saving principles and ORDINANCES of the GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST (including FAITH, REPENTANCE, BAPTISM, the GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST, ordination to the PRIESTHOOD for men, ENDOWMENT, and eternal MARRIAGE) and seek to live righteous and useful lives, embracing the FULNESS OF THE GOSPEL, will obtain the complete blessings of the ATONEMENT of Jesus Christ. All who had no opportunity to do so during earth life will have it in the postmortal spirit world (1 Pet. 3:18–19; 4:6; D&C 138:36–37). Every person who has lived on the earth will be resurrected with perfected corporeal bodies, and those who have kept the commandments will enter into ETERNAL LIFE, and “have glory added upon their heads for ever and ever” (Abr. 3:26).

ALEXANDER L. BAUGH

---

### SECRET COMBINATIONS

In latter-day scriptures, secret combinations are groups of conspirators who plot and initiate “works of darkness” for evil and selfish purposes. Secret combinations have existed since the days of Cain (Moses 5:51). Satan is their author (2 Ne. 26:22), power and gain are their motives (Ether 8:15, 25), and conspiracy is their method of operation (Hel. 6:22–24). Secret combinations may be brotherhoods, groups, societies, or governments. They operate in secrecy to perform evil acts for the purpose of gaining power over the minds and actions of people.