Revelations to the Prophet Joseph Smith supplement those of the New Testament to indicate that the church of the Firstborn consists of those who have the inheritance of the Firstborn and become joint-heirs with Christ in receiving all that the Father has (Rom. 8:14–17; D&C 84:33–38; see HEIRS OF GOD). The Lord said, “If you keep my commandments you shall receive of his fulness, and be glorified in me as I am in the Father; . . . I . . . am the Firstborn; . . . And all those who are begotten through me are partakers of the glory of the same, and are the church of the Firstborn” (D&C 93:20–22). The church of the Firstborn is the divine patriarchal order in its eternal form. Building the priesthood family order on this earth by receiving sealings in the temple is a preparation and foundation for this blessing in eternity (see GOSPEL OF ABRAHAM).

When persons have proved themselves faithful in all things required by the Lord, it is their privilege to receive covenants and obligations that will enable them to be heirs of God as members of the church of the Firstborn. They are “sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise” and are those “into whose hands the Father has given all things” (D&C 76:51–55). They will be priests and priestesses, kings and queens, receiving the Father’s glory, having the fulness of knowledge, wisdom, power, and dominion (D&C 76:56–62, cf. 107:19). At the second coming of Jesus Christ, the “general assembly of the church of the firstborn” will descend with him (Heb. 12:22–23; JST Gen. 9:23; D&C 76:54, 63).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

IVAN J. BARRETT

CHURCH GROWTH
See: Vital Statistics

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, THE

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the official name of the Church established on April 6, 1830, at Fayette, New York, under the