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## Our Family

1 message

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Sat, Feb 27, 2021 at 9:08 PM

Hello my brother or sister,

How are you and your family doing?

Family is so important, no matter what shape or size it looks like. And although we all have different kinds of families, it's important to remember that we are all part of one big family. All of us here on the earth have the same Heavenly Father who loves us. He knows you and loves you.

That's why we call each other Sister or Brother in the ward, to help us remember that truth. And that's why family history is so important to us, so we can link the generations and 'turn our heart to the fathers'. Reading and sharing stories of our ancestors helps us relate to them and brings them closer to us. It helps erase the time that stands between us.

Our Father in Heaven doesn't see time the same way we do, He loves all of His children because he knows them the same. Just like we know and love each of our children even though they may have been born at different times and have different life experiences. Our Father has always been there with each of us, so He knows you intimately.

I hope you were able to experience at least some of the RootsTech Connect event this past week. If you haven't, then you can still participate in all of it on demand until RootsTech 2022!

Go to the main web site at <https://rootstech.org> and browse around at what looks interesting to you. There are many very short videos and activities that those of all ages can participate in.

I especially recommend that you sit down with your family and watch Elder and Sister Holland's closing keynote presentation. They share their wonderful family stories and also some precious doctrine about why family is so important. See it here:

<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/rtc2021/live-session/elder-and-sister-holland-keynote-family-discovery-day>

Watching this may prompt you to share some of your own family stories that maybe your children haven't heard before. We seem to always forget that they weren't there with us when we were younger, and so they don't know many of our life experiences. Telling stories is part of family history. If we share as many stories as we can now, someone won't have to search so hard to 'discover' them years after we've gone.

The words of Malachi, the last prophet of the Old Testament, were so important that Jesus told the disciples in the Americas, while he was visiting them after his resurrection, to write them down so he could expound on them. So, we have Malachi's words again in 3 Nephi chapters 24 and 25. The final verse of the Old Testament (also in 3 Nephi 25: 6) mentions the plan our Father in Heaven has for connecting His children across generations. He will send the prophet Elijah to "turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers..."

And on April 3, 1836 that prophecy was fulfilled. We can read the account in D&C 110:13-16 where Elijah appeared to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland, Ohio temple and said to them, "Behold, the time has fully come, which was spoken of by the mouth of Malachi..."

What an amazing gospel! Prophecies are being fulfilled. The keys and power to seal families for eternity is on the earth!

When you know and understand the scriptures, time can be irrelevant to you too. The history of the world and God's dealings with mankind are laid before you. You can know your place in His great plan and our great family.

You and I are siblings. And I'm so glad.

Take care of the family, my sister, my brother.

Bishop Williams

P.S. I hope those of you with last names starting with M-Z can join us for sacrament meeting in person tomorrow. Everyone else can watch it here:

<https://zoom.us/j/92685846361>

And be sure to read the latest wonderful story from a fellow ward member, Sister Beverly Hughes, as she shares another great lesson from the prophet Malachi:

<https://pennycreek.org/2021/02/24/a-hard-choice/>

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