



Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

Volume 2, Issue 7

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Slippery Rock Branch

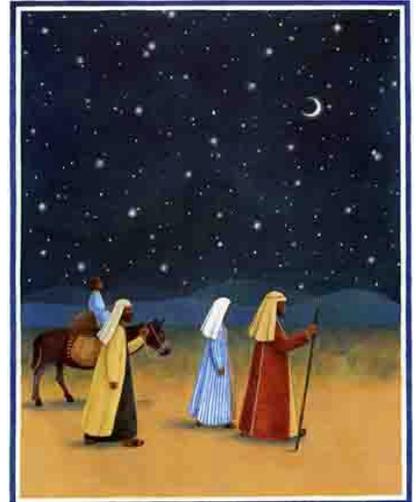
Today's Word: crossroads

February 12, 2006

Lesson 7: "The Abrahamic Covenant"

Questions to Ponder

- What blessings did the Lord promise Abraham as part of the Abrahamic covenant?
- What are our responsibilities as heirs of the Abrahamic covenant?



<http://person.wanadoo.fr>

A New Land, New Name, and Eternal Covenant

Abram, who lived in Ur of the Chaldeans, moved with his father, Terah to Haran until Terah died. Then the Lord spoke to Abram, then 75, who wanted to have greater happiness and peace, and told him to leave his father's house and his country, and he would bless him with a great land, a great name, and a blessed posterity. At that time, the Lord did not change his name, but Abram traveled with his family to a land between Bethel and Hai and built an altar there to the Lord and worshipped him. (Gen. 12: 1-8)

Fifteen years later, the Lord came to him again, expanding on his initial covenant, and told him that he would thereafter be called Abraham. Furthermore, he would be exceedingly fruitful, a father of all nations. Up to then, his wife, Sarai had had no children, but the Lord included her in this blessing, changing her name as well, to Sarah, and said she would be a mother of all nations. Along with a rich posterity, the Lord gave Abraham the land of Canaan, "the land wherein thou art a stranger" and covenanted with him that if he and his posterity worship God, he would bless not only Abraham, but his future generations (Gen. 17: 1-16)

Like Abraham, we often receive a blessing when we are very young, but have an opportunity many years later to have the Lord expand on that promise through our patriarchal blessing. Also like Abraham and his posterity, the Lord's blessing is sure, but is dependent upon our faithfulness in the gospel. Our patriarchal blessing has been likened to many things: a star to follow, an anchor to our souls, a white line down the middle of the road, and a compass to our lives. No matter what the analogy is, the invitation is the same: follow this path and your life will be blessed.—W.W.A.

Elder John A. Widtsoe said:

"Abraham was a chosen spirit, destined to be a great leader of the work of the Lord. He was commanded to move into another land to be shown him, where he might be free to worship the Lord of earth and the heavens . . . In obedience to God's command, Abraham, with believing members of his family, moved into the promised land known to us as Palestine." (Evidences and Reconciliations, 3:25).

Covenant or Promise

A covenant is a binding obligation, confirmed by an oath, to do something for someone. A promise, on the other hand, is a declaration of intention to do something.

A Patriarchal Blessing

- is a once-in-a-lifetime inspired blessing
- declares our lineage
- is recorded
- is dependent upon our faithfulness
- is given by a patriarch
- gives insight about a person's life
- counsels about temptations and life direction

Are You:

- Doing your Home Teaching or Visiting Teaching?
- Having Family Home Evening Every Week?
- Coming to Church Meetings regularly?
- Reading your Scriptures Every Day?

Next Week

Lesson 8:

"Living Righteously in a Wicked World"

Genesis 13-14

Genesis 18-19

W.W. Austin, Gospel Doctrine Teacher
wendywarrenaustin@hotmail.com
<http://ideawarehouse.blogspot.com>