

Gospel Doctrine Sunday School Lesson

Volume 2, Issue 13

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

Today's Word: exodus

March 26, 2006

Lesson 13: "Bondage, Passover, and Exodus"

Are You:

- Saying Your Prayers Every Day with Your Family?
- Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy?
- Having Family Home Evening Every Week?

Next Week

Lesson 14

"Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure Unto Me"

Exodus 15-20

Exodus 32-34

Questions to Ponder

- What similarities are there between the Passover and the sacrament?
- How can we develop faith strong enough to sustain us when we are filled with fear?
- How can this story [of the Lord saving the children of Israel from the advancing Egyptian army] help us in times of trial?



"When Moses received his divine call and mandate from the Lord, he likely had no idea of the lengths to which God would go in order to deliver the Hebrew slaves from bondage in Egypt: plagues that distinguished between the Israelites and the Egyptians, divine protection from the angel of death, a miraculous escape through the Red Sea, water and manna in the desert, and, finally, the great revelations on Mount Sinai. The Exodus showed the Israelites that the Lord was faithful and that they were his people.

Undoubtedly, the Exodus constituted one of God's most memorable acts in Israel's behalf before the Atonement. Its display of sheer power and sublime affirmation of God's love represented the Lord's ability to rescue and sustain his people and also foreshadowed Christ's atonement. Prophets, leaders, and teachers both in Israel and in the Book of Mormon lands often referred to the Exodus to strengthen faith in God's ability to deliver his people not only physically but also, by the power of Christ's atonement, spiritually. Time and again, those lessons were repeated in varying degrees when subsequent generations of the Lord's people escaped persecution through faith in their almighty God." (S. Kent Brown, "The Exodus: Seeing it as a Test, a Testimony, and a Type," *Ensign* Feb. 1990, 54.

Elder Howard W. Hunter taught that at the Passover meal that is now known as the Last Supper, "the bread and wine, rather than the animals and herbs, [became] emblems of the great Lamb's body and blood, emblems to be eaten and drunk reverently and in remembrance of him forever.

"In this simple but impressive manner the Savior instituted the ordinance now known as the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. With the suffering of Gethsemane, the sacrifice of Calvary, and the resurrection from a garden tomb, Jesus fulfilled the ancient law and ushered in a new dispensation based on a higher, holier understanding of the law of sacrifice. No more would men be required to offer the firstborn lamb from their flock, because the Firstborn of God had come to offer himself as an 'infinite and eternal sacrifice' " (in Conference Report, Apr. 1985, 22; or *Ensign*, May 1985, 19).

Elder Hunter also taught that just as the Passover was a covenant of protection for ancient Israel, the sacrament is a "new covenant of safety" for us (in Conference Report, Apr. 1974, 24; or *Ensign*, May 1974, 18).

The Lord said, "Moses, Moses ... draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground" (Ex. 3:4-5). At this point the Lord identified himself, saying, "I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" (Ex. 3:6). The Lord then issued a call to Moses with these words: "I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt" (Ex. 3:10).

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