

lr-ot-05
“If Thou Doest Well, Thou Shalt Be Accepted”
(Moses 5-7)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(These scriptures show from the beginning the greater freedom one will find in obedience to God, as opposed to the false freedom which will actually lead to bondage under Satan).

I. The purpose of the creation had previously been given: “We will prove them herewith to see if they will do all that [we] have commanded them” (Abraham 3:25).

A. After leaving the Garden of Eden, Adam and his posterity could choose either:
The freedom of obedience or the bondage of disobedience.

B. While many believe “freedom” means to do just what we want, we learn from these scriptures that *obedience* actually leads to *true* freedom.

II. Adam and Eve.

A. After leaving Eden, did Adam and Eve prove true to their word and become obedient?
(Adam offers sacrifice as commanded. Moses 5:5).

- Question: What blessings did he and Eve receive as a result of this obedience? (See Moses 5:6-9; Moses 6:64-68. Because of obedience, they saw they would not remain “cast out,” but would eventually be redeemed, and become the sons of God.
- They also no longer had to sacrifice in blind obedience, but were blessed to understand the true reason for it --- that Christ would offer Himself as a sacrifice **in fulfillment of the offerings they were making “in obedience.”**
- Because of their obedience, they received baptism, (6:64-66); the Gift of the Holy Ghost (5:9, 6:66); great knowledge (6:55-68); and the ability to foretell the future (5:10).

B. Although Adam and Eve had previously said, “Because of our transgression our eyes were opened,” their *greatest* understanding now came because of their *obedience*! (i.e., because they willingly offered the firstlings of their flocks their redemption was now possible, and they were blessed with a full understanding of how they would be redeemed through a similar sacrifice of Jesus Christ.)

*(Note, the point is that the Lord did not forsake them *in spite* of their earlier transgression, but **their greatest blessings were now actually to come because of their subsequent obedience!**)

III. Cain and Abel

A. Did Cain and Abel know of their future redemption and that the sacrifices they were to make were to be in similitude of it? (See Moses 5:12).

B. Read Moses 5:18-26. What were the reasons Cain’s offering was rejected. (He did not really love God for he did not sacrifice in the required way; when he was corrected, he was not repentant but angry, etc.)

1. Joseph Smith taught it was due to the need **for offerings as animal sacrifice to be in similitude of Christ’s sacrifice.**

[Background information: Later, after the Law of Moses was given, people could give first fruits of their harvest, but they had to be prepared in special ways which also taught of Christ. (I.e., they had to be beaten, passed through fire, etc. Examples: See Leviticus 2, particularly vs. 14-16). Nevertheless, for serious sins, animal sacrifice was required for this most clearly demonstrated Christ's death and atonement. Some people believe another purpose for the dramatic bloodshed was to demonstrate "the wages of sin are death"(Romans 6:23). Only Christ's shed blood could pay that price.

III. Enoch and his people.

- A. Review the following scriptures regarding Enoch and his people and note their strong parallels to us as Latter-day Saints.
- Moses 6:27-30. Are we also commanded to call people to repentance?
 - Moses 6:31-33. Do we also feel inadequate? Will the Lord help us?
 - Moses 6:35-36. Was Joseph Smith a seer raised up, who revealed in the last days astonishing things not understood by any others?
 - Moses 7: 62. During the restoration, did the Lord send righteousness out of heaven and truth out of the earth to help gather His elect? (Yes, messengers from Heaven and the Book of Mormon out the earth.)
 - Moses 7:16-19. Did Joseph Smith begin to establish Zion? Is that still our work?
 - Moses 7:61, 64. Is it not us who are to help prepare the earth for Christ's coming?
- B. **Enoch and his people were likely witnesses to us of our great Latter-day work.**
1. One of the chief qualities Enoch's people possessed was to be of "one heart and one mind." How can we achieve such remarkable unity?
 2. Demonstration to analyze: Ask members to close eyes. Put picture of Christ prominently in front of room. Move to back of room. Have class open eyes. Have them all focus on Christ, and think of Him as their source of greatest light.

As they focus on Christ, read D&C 88:67. Ask class to keep focus on Savior. When focus is on Christ, can we be conscious of our neighbor's faults? If focus is on Christ, do we worry about whether our talents are greater or lesser than anyone else's? If focus is on Christ, do past offenses disappear?

How does the eye work? If our brain directs us to open our eyes and focus on a great source of light, are we not receiving that light into our bodies? As this is demonstrated physically, isn't it also true spiritually? The light of Christ then causes the dissipation of all darkness within us, which means it removes darkness from our souls. Isn't becoming of "One heart and one mind" realistic if we all truly seek foremost for the glory of God?

Jesus taught, "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness" (Matthew 6:22-23).

Because we are like Enoch and his people, it is important for us also to be "of one heart and one mind" to accomplish our great responsibilities. We can do this by keeping our

own eyes single to the glory of God and His Son.

IV. Ultimately, as we all obey, our obedience will lead us to greater freedom and save us from the bondage of Satan.

- Read Moses 7:24-26. Point out **Satan's chains, and how he laughs** when men come into his bondage.
- Read Moses 7:28. Note that while Satan laughs at the destruction of men, **the Lord weeps. What does this testify in regard to the ultimate love of God** in contrast to Satan's true purposes? **Whom would we rather live with?**

V. **Satan's ultimate purpose**, through luring others with promises of "freedom," is actually to bring them into **bondage to his selfish and self-serving will**.

On the other hand, the ultimate purpose of the Lord is to make us totally free. Those who dwell in His presence *will always be free to act of their own will*, because they --- out of love, and consistent with truth, goodness and righteousness, will seek the best for all, as does