

Ir-ot-13
Bondage, Passover, and Exodus
(Exodus 1-3; 5-6; 11-14)
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(Here is inspirational background that shows Moses and the Exodus were real, but also “foreshadowings” of things in the future).

I. There is significant physical evidence that Moses and the Exodus were true accounts.

A. While many scholars insist there is no evidence the Exodus really happened, significant new findings shows it did!

B. The biggest problem is that because the scriptures refer to the city of Ramesses, which was not built until later, the Exodus has been misdated. However, when put in the time which the Bible specifically says it occurred, (about 1446 - 1500 B.C., 1 Kings 6:1), there is strong physical evidence it was a true event.

C. Archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Avaris are turning up amazing physical evidence the Israelites were there. The city of Ramesses was later built at that same site. This is the reason for the confusion.

1. One can find articles online with correct dating of the Exodus from Associates for Biblical Research, or from “Exodus Decoded” and “Patterns of Evidence,” both DVDs. While some conclusions differ, they all agree on the same general dates for the Exodus. And all point to the same archaeological evidences.

II. Jewish and Christian scholars recognize Moses’ life also taught of the Messiah.

A. The Book of Moses verifies this: “And thou [Moses] art in the similitude of mine Only Begotten” (Moses 1:6). [a “similitude” means a life lived in a similar pattern].

B. By skimming Moses’ life in general we can see parallels to Christ. Some are:

1. Both were delivered from death as infants, while other children were slain. (Ex. 2:1-6; Luke 2:12-16). This foreshadowed that Jesus alone would overcome death.

2. Both were sent by God to save Israel when Israel was in bondage.

a. When Jesus came, Israel was in bondage to the Romans, but more particularly to sin and death. The Jews knew that Moses taught of the Messiah, but they expected him to free them from Roman rule as Moses had done from Egyptian rule.

But at that time, Jesus’ deliverance was from a far greater tyranny --- of Satan.

3. Both Moses and the Christ would serve in the same roles as Prince, Shepherd, Redeemer, Law-giver and Judge.

III. “I Am,” the name the Lord gives to Moses as His own, is highly important (Ex. 3:14).

A. It means “Jehovah.”

B. It also emphasizes that God is not just a God of the past, but still lives and acts in our behalf. He Is, not WAS.

C. Some scholars say its Hebrew meaning includes “I am he who will be there at the appointed time.” Thus His very name also testified He would come and deliver Israel at the appointed time.

IV. The Lord through Moses and Aaron showed that He would deliver Israel with a “stretched out arm.”

A. Jehovah said, "I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments." (Exodus 6:6). Moses repeatedly used his rod in a stretched out arm for deliverance. **Christ's delivery was on the cross where his arms were "stretched out in mercy."**

B. The death of the firstborn, and Passover, also taught of the eventual deliverance by Jesus Christ.

1. Exodus 12:2-12 shows many similarities between ancient Israel deliverance and that by Christ. Note: "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months; take every man a lamb without blemish, a male; [After] Israel shall kill it, take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses; eat the flesh with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs; eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand."

2. Passover was an enacted similitude of Christ, the *real* Passover Lamb, a male without blemish, firstborn of the Father, killed by the whole congregation of Israel.

His blood was sprinkled on the upright post and the top bars of the cross.

He gave His Flesh under the bitterest of circumstances, which brought deliverance to all.

Henceforth, death would *Pass Over* men.

Those who were **ready** to be delivered --- as witnessed by the command to eat the Passover **with loins girded, shoes on feet, staff in hand** --- **would find redemption from the bondage of sin.**

So significant would be the Passover that time would begin to be counted anew. The time of Passover became the new beginning of the Jewish year.

For when Christ delivered men, so great in magnitude would be His deliverance that all of time would begin to be counted anew. From the coming of Christ, time changed from B.C. to A.D.

V. The Lord had said He would also deliver Israel **through judgments**. This was manifest in the plagues which showed Jehovah's power over all other supposed gods.

A. **The plagues were designed to show that the gods of Egypt were false.**

"Through the plagues, God showed his power over all the principal gods that were worshipped in the Nile Valley, discrediting them and their presumed power. The God Israel showed himself to be God over life, health, property, elements, and agriculture. Through the plagues, every Egyptian god and every sign of the gods became a horror and a torment to the people (Renee Vorhaus, *The Ensign*, September, 1980, p. 64.)

B. The Lord Himself verified His purposes; **"Against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the Lord"** (Exodus 12:12).

VI. **Similarly, in the Latter-days, the Lord is sending forth plagues to bring out those from the world who are "ready" to be delivered by Him** (See Revelation 15, 18:4).

A. **John's Revelation speaks of this parallel in the last days** (See Revelation 8, 9). We should recognize that Plagues are a key feature of these Last Days. Their purpose is again to help gather Israel. The disturbances of our age have and will continue to have contributed to acceptance of the gospel, often because belief in the power of false gods (such as trust in or worship of wealth, etc.) has been destroyed.

B. Elder Bruce R. McConkie wrote such plagues will come upon the earth for the purposes:

- (1) separating God's people from the world (Being gathered out is not really a physical thing, but spiritual);
- (2) purifying God's people, and
- (3) eventually purifying the earth itself. He said, **“Before the earth becomes a fit habitat for the Holy One, it must be cleansed and purified... How shall this be brought to pass... by plagues and pestilence and wars and desolation.”** (*Millennial Messiah*, p. 378) (Emphasis added).

VII. Like the parallels with Joseph, Moses' life taught not only of the Messiah's saving work in the Meridian of Time, but also that of the last days.

A. Consider this visual --- with arrows pointing from Moses up to “Jesus the Messiah” then down to Latter-day Saints.



B. While the deliverance through Moses taught how Jesus would deliver in the Meridian of Time, the Lord also used this same pattern to bear witness that He would deliver His people yet again --- from a Babylon in the last days.

C. The next lesson will point out many parallels between the ancient Exodus and that of the Latter-day Saints.

D. These and other signs would help men see that it was indeed the gathering of Israel of which the scriptures continually prophesied.

1. Joseph Smith and Brigham Young would both be like Moses, both in gathering Israel and in leading them toward a Promised Land.

E. (See 2 Nephi 3:9-11; and D&C 29:7). “And ye were called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect...”.

1. In fact, Brigham Young has been called by many even outside the church as “the American Moses.”

VIII. Most remarkably, through the life of Moses and the Exodus, the Lord bore witness of Himself, and of how He would deliver men, both in the Meridian of Time, and again in these last days.

So these scriptures are very pertinent to us and to our Times!

But their meanings are most significant when we apply them to ourself and make our own life a journey away from the bondages of the world, relying on the daily nourishment coming down from the Lord, and following His Guidance to the ultimate Promised Land --- Eternal Life.