

Ir-ot-13
Bondage, Passover, and Exodus
(Exodus 1-3; 5-6; 11-14)
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(This material shows that Moses was a type of Jesus Christ and that the Exodus was a witness of and pattern for the Exodus of Latter-day Israel).

- I. Jewish and Christian scholars recognize Moses' life taught of the Messiah to come.
- A. The Book of Moses verifies this truth, "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 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 Jesus' deliverance was from a far greater tyranny --- that of sin and of Satan.**
 3. Both would eventually serve in the same roles as Prince, Shepherd, Redeemer, Law-giver and Judge.
- II. The name the Lord used to identify Himself, "I Am." has much significance. (Ex. 3:14).
- A. It means "Jehovah."
- B. **It 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 testified He would come and deliver Israel at the appointed time.
- III. The Lord would deliver Israel with a "stretched out arm" and through the Passover.
- A. Jehovah told Israel, "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, taught of the eventual deliverance by Christ.
1. Study Exodus 12:2 -12. Seek similarities between how ancient Israel was delivered and Christ's deliverance. 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. Consider the following points as well: 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 sprinkled on the upright post and the top bars of the cross**, giving his flesh under the bitterest of circumstances, which brought deliverance to all. Henceforth, death would *pass over* men. **Those who were ready to receive Him --- 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. But when Christ delivered men, so great in magnitude would be this deliverance that time would begin to be counted anew. From the coming of Christ, time changed from B.C. to A.D.

IV. But 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).**

V. 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 the following visual --- with arrows pointing from Moses up to “Jesus the Messiah” then down to Latter-day Saints. Also draw an arrow from Moses to “Latter-day Saints and Christ at Second Coming.”

Jesus the Messiah

Moses

Latter-day Saints and Christ at Second Coming

B. While the deliverance through Moses taught of Jesus deliverance, the Lord also used this same pattern to bear witness that He would deliver His people yet again --- this time from a Babylon in the last days. Thus this same pattern is found repeatedly in the gathering and Exodus of the Latter-day Saints. These signs would help men see that it was indeed the gathering of Israel of which the scriptures continually prophesied. Joseph Smith and Brigham Young were like Moses, both in gathering Israel and in leading them toward a Promised Land.

C. (See 2 Nephi 3:9-11; and D&C 29:7). “And ye were called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect...”. Furthermore, Brigham Young has been called by many even outside the church as “the American Moses.”

VI. **The plagues in Egypt which Jehovah sent to gather out Israel are shown by John in Revelation to have parallels in the last days (See Revelation 8, 9).** Plagues are a key feature of the last days, 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.

A. Elder Bruce R. McConkie wrote such plagues will come upon the earth for the purpose of (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. The crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14)

A. Paul taught the Red Sea crossing was a type of baptism for us as we begin our own personal journeys toward Eternal Life.

1. “... our fathers... passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses... in the sea” (1 Corinthians 10:1-2).

B. Baptism is a token: of a covenant between God and man. It is fulfilled by both parties via a death and resurrection. On man's part it is a water burial and a commitment to die to one's old nature and to be reborn to a new nature. On God's part, it was a covenant that Christ Himself would die and be resurrected, that our part of the covenant might be possible.

Truly in all things regarding the life of Moses, the Lord bore witness of Himself, and of how He would deliver us, both in the meridian of time, and again in the last days. These scriptures are very pertinent!