

Ir-ot-14
Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure unto Me
(Exodus 15-20; 32-34)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is Inspirational Background)

I. As there are many physical evidences verifying the Exodus, there are also many physical evidences of Israel's crossing the Red (actually the Reed) Sea. Search for them. "Exodus Decoded" (DVD) gives many excellent evidences and possibilities.

II. By taking Israel across the Sea, **the Lord separated a people from the world.**

A. His intent was to make them **His** people --- a treasure who knew and obeyed Him.

B. He has similarly acted in the Latter-days to separate a people from the world --- as He led Latter-day Israel into a separate dwelling in the Mountain wilderness of Utah.

C. There are deliberate parallels between Israel's crossing the Red Sea and the Latter-day Saints crossing the Mississippi as they too were "separated" from the world.

1. When the Latter-day Saints left Nauvoo, they struggled to cross the Mississippi. They began by taking loaded wagons and teams of stock across icy cold water on skiffs and flatboats. But on February 24, 1846 a miracle occurred. The river froze. This allowed a very great number of loaded wagons and teams to cross over on solid ice, and the long-prophesied Latter-day Exodus had begun.

D. **As it continued, the Latter-day Exodus would follow a similar pattern set by ancient Israel, including being fed by quail in the wilderness, etc.**

III. Actually, Israel's journey through its wilderness taught of Christ's works in the Meridian of Time and again in the Latter-days.

Jesus' guidance and deliverance_

Ancient Israel in wilderness _/

Latter-day Exodus and deliverances

A. The parallel events in these histories contain the same general patterns because they all teach how Jesus the Christ will lead us to Eternal Life.

B. In fact, **the Lord said that the Exodus of the Latter-days would be the greatest of all:**

1. "Behold the days come ...that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, the Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of **Israel out of the north country and from all countries whither I have driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.**" (Jeremiah 23:7-8). (Emphasis added).

IV. All the miracles Israel saw crossing their wilderness taught of Jesus Christ.

A. The Bitter Waters of Marah bore witness of Him.

1. The casting of a tree into bitter waters to make them sweet teaches of our **sweet sacramental drink because of Christ's /crucifixion** upon a **tree/cross**. That replaced the bitterness of our sins. (Exodus 15: 23-25).

B. The **Twelve Wells and Seventy Palm Trees** where Israel found wonderful refreshment bore witness of Christ's Twelve and Seventy who would comfort us.

C. Manna bore witness of Jesus Christ

1. Israel's manna from heaven taught Christ would come down from heaven and provide **His spiritual nourishment** (Exodus 16:1-4 and John 6:30-35).

2. The name "manna" means "What is it?" This was witness that when **this** True Bread came down from Heaven, **He would be unrecognized** (Exodus 16:14-15 and 15a).

3. Israel was to gather twice as much manna before the Sabbath. This taught we should prepare for the Sabbath. It also teaches we must gather the spiritual nourishment we need to be prepared for Christ's **final Sabbath, the Millennium, the great Sabbath of the World** (Exodus 16:22-25).

a. "Morning will break upon the Millennium, the thousand years of peace, **the Sabbath of the World**" (Orson F. Whitney, "Saturday Night Thoughts").

D. The Battle with Amalek bore witness of Jesus the Christ

1. Moses delivered Israel by standing upon the top of a hill with his arms outstretched, with Aaron and Hur on each side of him (Exodus 17:8-13).

2. When Jesus offered **His** deliverance, He was hung upon a hill between two others, with His arms outstretched in mercy.

V. Each event in the wilderness taught how Christ leads us back to His presence.

A. The Crossing of the Red Sea, Jesus' baptism, and our own baptisms set people apart for membership in God's Kingdom. But that is just the beginning. He is leading us to Eternal Life and our whole mortal life is like wandering in a wilderness, being beset by temptations, but also being strengthened and guided by Him.

B. For the real Promised Land is Eternal Life (Alma 37:44-46).

C. The Lord led Israel by a Pillar of Fire by night and a cloud by day. We have a similar guide in our mortal wilderness --- the Holy Ghost who both **guides and comforts us** (Compare Exodus 13:21 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-2).

VI. Jehovah desires to make all His people leaders.

A. He said He'd establish a "Kingdom of Priests" (Exodus 19:3-6).

B. He did not intend to establish a Church or Kingdom where only a few ministered, but where all worthy **men could be ministering priesthood members**.

1. **This does not ignore women**. In the Lord's eyes, each woman is meant eventually to be One with a husband **and to minister with him as an equal partner**.

C. **In early Christianity church government was originally a lay priesthood**.

1. It is a fact that in the earliest times, church leadership was lay leadership. It was only much later that a distinction was made between certain men called "priests" and the rest of the congregation. The change was made for political purposes.

VII. The Covenant at Mt. Sinai had Great Significance.

A. **The Sermon on the Mount was actually a repetition of what happened on Mt. Sinai**.

B. Note that Jesus frequently said, "It has been said by them of old (meaning Moses)... **but I say unto you...**" and then He gave beautiful new principles which, if lived, will make us more Holy, like Him. It was His New Law. (Emphasis added)

C. Actually, **the Covenant at Sinai was a Betrothal between Jehovah and Israel**.

1. So Jesus Christ was laying out His “New Betrothal” on His New Mount.

D. The Lord repeatedly taught He was as a Bridegroom to Israel. Sinai and the Mount at Galilee were the two times He laid out His offering of Betrothal.

E. It is for these reasons that the two parts of the Bible are called: **The Old Covenant and The New Covenant.**

VIII. **Moses deliberately veiled most of the true meaning of the Law.**

A. Moses delivered the law with a veil over his face (Exodus 34:29-35).

B. This strange act witnessed the Mosaic Law contained veiled witnesses of Christ.

C. Paul explained: “Seeing then that we have such hope [in salvation through Christ], we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a veil [sic] over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end of that which is abolished: But their minds were blinded: **for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ**” (2 Cor. 3:12-14).

D. Paul was saying many of the truths given in the Old Testament were veiled behind symbolism (Just as Jesus’ parables were). Many things taught of Christ but Israel could not fully understand them then. When Christ came in the flesh and fulfilled His prophecies, their meaning was now made clearer to those who had the faith and received the spirit to help them understand.

Furthermore, **due to Latter-day revelation, most of these witnesses are now understandable for those willing to seek to understand them.**

1. Have you sought to remove that veil in your reading?

IX. In fact, the **major purpose** of the Mosaic Law was to bear witness of Jesus Christ!

A. The law was meant to be **a schoolmaster to bring men to Christ** (Galatians 3:23-5).

B. **This means that a great many of its rituals were types and shadows of Him.**

C. The Book of Mormon’s Nephi (2 Nephi 11:4) and Mosiah (3:15) so testified.

D. While animal sacrifices taught of Jesus’ sacrifice, there are many other parallels.

* All of the features of the Tabernacle taught of Jesus Christ, and of the journey men must follow to return into God’s presence. These include the brazen laver for washing, the altar for offering sacrifice, the offering of incense which symbolized His prayerful pleadings for us, the table of shew bread (“bread of presence”) which taught He would eventually come into men’s presence to save them.

* Such “types” included the candlesticks which stood before the Holy of Holies. It was made of gold, “beaten for the light;” the oil it burned also “beaten for the light.” It taught Jesus would suffer so mightily He would glow with light. That light would be “set upon a hill” (Calvary). **This Light** would lead through the veil into God’s Presence.

* Most of the furniture in the tabernacle (and future temple) were made of acacia wood overlaid with gold. It taught the **Messiah would be both divine and mortal.**

Truly the “similitudes” of Moses, the Exodus, and the Mosaic Law all bore witness **Jehovah would come down among men and do all things necessary to bring them into God’s Glorious Presence --- if they but followed Him in faith and in obedience.**