

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

(Summary: Israel's struggles through the wilderness taught of Christ's leading and delivering us; this same pattern has been repeated in the Latter-days.)

I. By delivering Israel across the Sea, the Lord separated a people from the world unto himself.

A. There are many physical evidences the Biblical stories of Moses are real, including the crossing of the Sea.

B. There were similarities between Israel's crossing of the Red Sea and the Latter-day Saints crossing the Mississippi after being driven from Nauvoo.

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 dry ice, and the long-prophesied Latter-day Exodus had begun. **As it continued, this whole Exodus would follow a similar pattern set by ancient Israel, including being fed by quails in the wilderness, etc.**

II. Israel's journey through the wilderness taught of Christ's leading us back to His presence.

A. Consider the parallels between the following situations

b. Jesus' guidance and deliverance

- a. Ancient Israel in wilderness c. Latter-day Exodus and deliverances

Note the events in the above histories contain the same general patterns because they all teach how Jesus the Christ will lead us to Eternal Life.

B. 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.

C. See Alma 37:44-46.

D. Other confirming scriptures:

1. Exodus 13:21 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-2. The Lord led Israel by a Pillar of Fire by night and a cloud by day. We have a similar guide that the Lord provides for us in our wilderness --- which is the Holy Ghost.

2. Like the cloud by day, the Holy Ghost comforts us, and like the Pillar of Fire by night, the Holy Ghost guides us. We receive the Holy Ghost by a baptism of fire.

III. Wilderness miracles taught how Jesus Christ blessed and is blessing us.

A. The Bitter Waters of Marah.

1. Exodus 15: 23-25. The casting of a tree into bitter waters to make them sweet teaches of how our sweet sacramental drink came because of Christ's atonement/crucifixion upon a tree/cross. It replaces the bitterness of our sins.

B. Exodus 15:27. Note that the Lord led Israel to wonderful refreshing in the midst of the wilderness with twelve wells and seventy palm trees. How did the twelve apostles and the seventy refresh Israel after His departure?

Consider how the twelve apostles and the seventy continually refresh us in our day.

C. Manna

1. Exodus 16:1-4 and John 6:30-35. The Lord provided ancient Israel manna from heaven for their hunger. But what was He also teaching us all through them? (Answer: Jesus would come down from heaven and provide us spiritual nourishment.)

2. Exodus 16:14-15 and 15a. What does the name "manna" mean? (Answer: "What is it?" meaning that it was unrecognized. How did this likely teach of Jesus when He would come among men? **(He too would be unrecognized.)**)

3. Exodus 16:22-25. What was Israel commanded to do in respect to manna and the Sabbath? (Answer: to gather twice as much to be prepared) What does this teach us about our preparations for the Sabbath? (Answers should include being very diligent beforehand in preparing for the Sabbath. It also **suggests we must gather the spiritual nourishment we need to be prepared for Christ's final Sabbath, the Millennium, the great Sabbath of the World.**)

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

1. Exodus 17:8-13. How did Moses deliver Israel? (Answer: He stood atop a hill with his arms outstretched, Aaron and Hur on each side of him.)

2. How did Jesus deliver us in His day? (He hung in crucifixion **with His arms outstretched on the top of a hill** between two others).

3. Exodus 17:12: How long did Moses hold out his arms? (Answer: until the going down of the sun.) How long did Jesus stretch out His arms of deliverance on the cross? (Until the going down of the sun.)

How long will He continue to outstretch His arms of deliverance for all men? (Until the going down of the sun on men's lives or the end of the world's final days.)

IV. The Great Covenant at Mt. Sinai.

A. **After reading Exodus 19:3-6, think how does The Church of Jesus Christ fulfill the concept of a "kingdom of priests"?** (Answers should include that both in Jesus' day and in our day church government was based upon a lay priesthood where all worthy male members could hold the priesthood and help serve in the kingdom. How did Exodus 18 prepare Moses for this concept? (Moses was taught the principle of delegation).

- B. Moses went up into the mountain and received a law for Israel. **But this event also taught of Jesus Christ, the greatest lawgiver, who would take His people to a Mount and there give them a higher law, the Sermon on the Mount.**
- C. Consider ways in which the Sermon on the Mount was a higher or more refined law than that given by Moses? (One example should be that the Ten Commandments simply say, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” But Jesus added that “whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her has committed adultery in his heart.” etc. Point out how Jesus frequently said, “It has been said by them of old (meaning Moses)... but I say unto you...” and changed some aspects of the law. Jesus had actually come to fulfill the law of Moses and to give a higher law of His own.

V. **Moses deliberately veiled part of the meaning of his teachings.**

A. Exodus 34:29-35.

1. When Moses delivered his law, he is described as putting a veil over his face. This strange act was a witness that Moses’ law contained veiled witnesses of Christ
2. Confirming Scripture: Paul taught, “Seeing then that we have such hope [in salvation through Christ], we use great plainness of speech: And not as Moses, which put a vail [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 vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ” (2 Cor. 3:12-14).

3. Paul is teaching that 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.

VI. A major purpose of the Mosaic Law was to bear witness of Jesus Christ.

A. Galatians 3:23-5. When reading this scripture, note the law was **a schoolmaster in that a great many of its rituals were in similitude of Jesus Christ.**

B. Confirming Scripture: Mosiah 13:29-35.

C. In addition to the fact that animal sacrifices taught of Jesus’ sacrifice, here are other relationships.

1. Sacrifices were to be of the firstborn or the firstfruits. They were to be anointed with oil and frankincense, or beaten or passed through fire. They were used to heal those considered unclean, such as lepers. **Such preparations prophesied of the sufferings, trials, and atonement of Jesus Christ.**

The Lord continually sought to prepare ancient Israel to receive Christ at His first coming. He is now working just as diligently to prepare us for His return.