

Lesson 38 - “Beside Me There Is No Saviour”

Isaiah 40-49

Purpose: To help us understand that Jesus Christ is incomparable in his devotion to his people and that he has a great work for them to do.

My lessons take a different path than the Gospel Doctrine lesson manual. The lesson outline looks closer at the doctrinal topics included in the lesson purpose and scripture block. The lessons are designed to challenge mature, active Latter-Day Saints who have a solid Gospel foundation and are looking for insights into the scriptures that will broaden their faith and understanding.

If you are interested in downloading the PowerPoint file, links to source material or reading posts about improving Gospel Doctrine class preparation, delivery and engagement, you can join my Facebook Group and have full access to the content posted there. The link is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/188904648521022/>

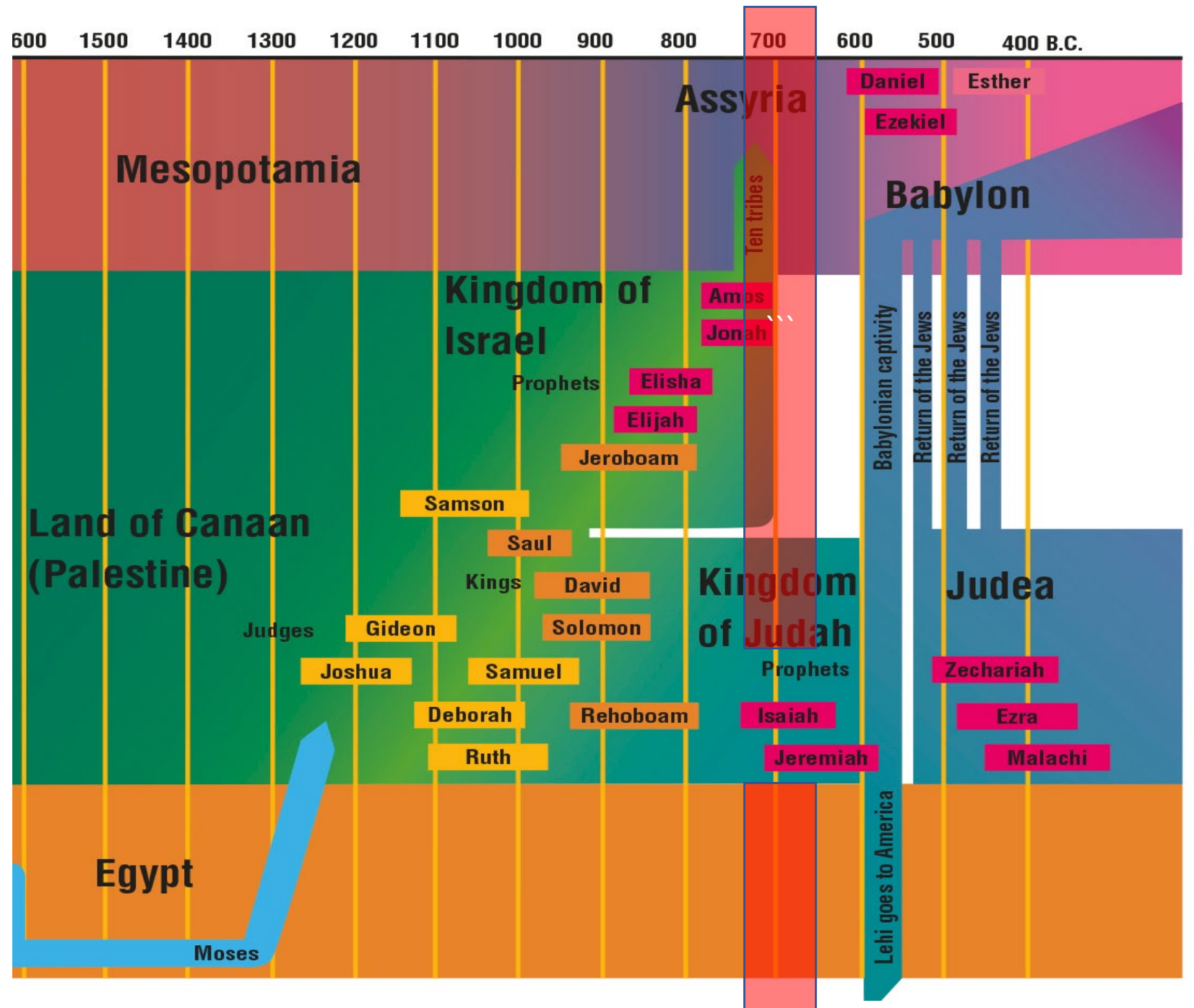
Last Week's Lesson Challenge

Last week's lesson taught us that we can learn much about the Savior in our study of Isaiah.

Last week's challenge is was to continue to study Isaiah and look for references that Isaiah uses to describe the Savior and his love for us.

Would anyone wish to share their thoughts at this time?

Isaiah



Isaiah, because of his faithfulness and devotion to Jehovah, was given the gift of seership and was blessed with seeing the Savior's birth, life and ministry. Our testimony of the divinity and mission of Jesus Christ can be enlarged by our study of Isaiah.

In today's lesson, we will study some of Isaiah's words found in Chapters 40 through 49 that exemplify the Jesus Christ, as the Savior of the World.

**Isaiah Teaches That The Savior Is
Incomparable.**

What does it mean to be
incomparable?

Incomparable

Adjective

beyond comparison; matchless or unequaled; not comparable; incapable of being compared to each other, as two unlike objects or qualities, or to one or more others.

In an April 2004 General Conference address, Bishop Keith B. McMullin said the following:

*This Jesus, who is called Christ, wrought out a perfect atonement for all mankind by His **incomparable** life, His suffering in Gethsemane, the shedding of His blood, His death upon the cross, and His glorious Resurrection. He conquered the grave, and because of Him, so will we. “He is the greatest Being to be born on this earth. ... He is Lord of lords, King of kings, ... the Savior, ... the Bright and Morning Star. ... His name ... is the only name under heaven [whereby] we can be saved.” He is the Anointed One. Again we exclaim: Jesus, the very thought of Thee with reverence fills my breast.*

Isaiah 40:18

To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

Isaiah 44:8

Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

Isaiah 46:5

To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?

Isaiah 43:11

I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.

Isaiah 44:6

Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Isaiah 45:5

I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Isaiah teaches that Jesus Christ, the Savior, is greater than any person or thing we could compare Him to. Does it change the way you look at Jesus Christ, the Savior, when you understand Him to be incomparable?

Many religions and scholars try to portray Jesus Christ in a more human way to understand Him better. They draw mortal perspectives on what the Savior did and taught? Does this support Isaiah's scriptures that Jesus Christ is incomparable?

Isaiah Describes The Savior's Incomparable Qualities.

Isaiah 40:13-14

13 Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

14 With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

Isaiah 40:12, 21-22, 26

12 ¶ Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?

22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Isaiah 43:1-4

1 But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3 For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

The World (Babylon) Competes With The Savior For Our Devotion.

Babylon, a wicked and worldly place in Isaiah's time, has become a metaphor in our dispensation for the wickedness of the world. We can see the comparisons between how Isaiah saw Babylon and we see the world today.

Isaiah 47:1-5, 7-11

1 Come down, and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon, sit on the ground: there is no throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called tender and delicate.

2 Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.

3 Thy nakedness shall be uncovered, yea, thy shame shall be seen: I will take vengeance, and I will not meet thee as a man.

4 As for our redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel.

5 Sit thou silent, and get thee into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans: for thou shalt no more be called, The lady of kingdoms.

7 ¶ And thou saidst, I shall be a lady for ever: so that thou didst not lay these things to thy heart, neither didst remember the latter end of it.

8 Therefore hear now this, thou that art given to pleasures, that dwellest carelessly, that sayest in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me; I shall not sit as a widow, neither shall I know the loss of children:

9 But these two things shall come to thee in a moment in one day, the loss of children, and widowhood: they shall come upon thee in their perfection for the multitude of thy sorceries, and for the great abundance of thine enchantments.

10 ¶ For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.

11 ¶ Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know.

Though the claim to power and greatness may be made boldly by the world and made so convincingly that multitudes may follow, it does not give the boaster the rights he claims. For every offense there is a punishment, and whether we speak of the physical Babylons of the world, which have continually oppressed men under dictatorial force, or of the spiritual Babylon of the world, which just as literally enslaves her disciples, it is the same. Babylon will be destroyed. Therefore, the Lord through His prophets warns His people: “Go ye out ... from Babylon, from the midst of wickedness, which is spiritual Babylon” (D&C 133:14). Note Isaiah’s warnings: Babylon will be brought down to the dust (see Isaiah 47:1). She will become damned as a slave of her own evil nature (see Isaiah 47:2–3). She will fall from her favored place in the world (see Isaiah 47:5). She will be denied the very thing she boasted of possessing: children (subjects) and marriage (that which saved a woman from disgrace in a society) (see Isaiah 47:9). She will be destroyed by sources she knows not of (see Isaiah 47:11). And she will be cleansed from the earth even as by fire (see Isaiah 47:14).

Truly, Isaiah could say as did Alma, “Wickedness never was happiness” (Alma 41:10).

<https://www.lds.org/manual/old-testament-student-manual-kings-malachi/chapter-16?lang=eng>

Once we accept that Jesus Christ, the Savior, is incomparable, we progress substantially farther along the road in this life that is humility before God.

Accepting that Jesus Christ, the Savior, is incomparable we do the following:

- We acknowledge that there was and is no other being capable of saving humankind from both physical and spiritual death.
- We acknowledge the God-like qualities of Jesus Christ and His ability to choose between life and death as no one else has had the ability to do.
- We acknowledge that no one else was or is capable of taking upon themselves the sins of the world and, as a result, paying the price for the sins of humankind based only on our obedience and repentance.
- We acknowledge that Jesus Christ, the Savior, was there in the Beginning and the Eldest Son of Heavenly Father and therefore, chose to accept his role and the savior of humankind and suffer that we would have eternal life based upon of faith and obedience.

This Week's Lesson Challenge

We talked today about how Isaiah taught us to understand how Jesus Christ, the Savior, is incomparable. We have also discussed why that is important to us in our path to eternal life.

This week's lesson challenge is ponder and study more from Isaiah the Savior being incomparable and strengthen our testimony of His incomparable love for us.