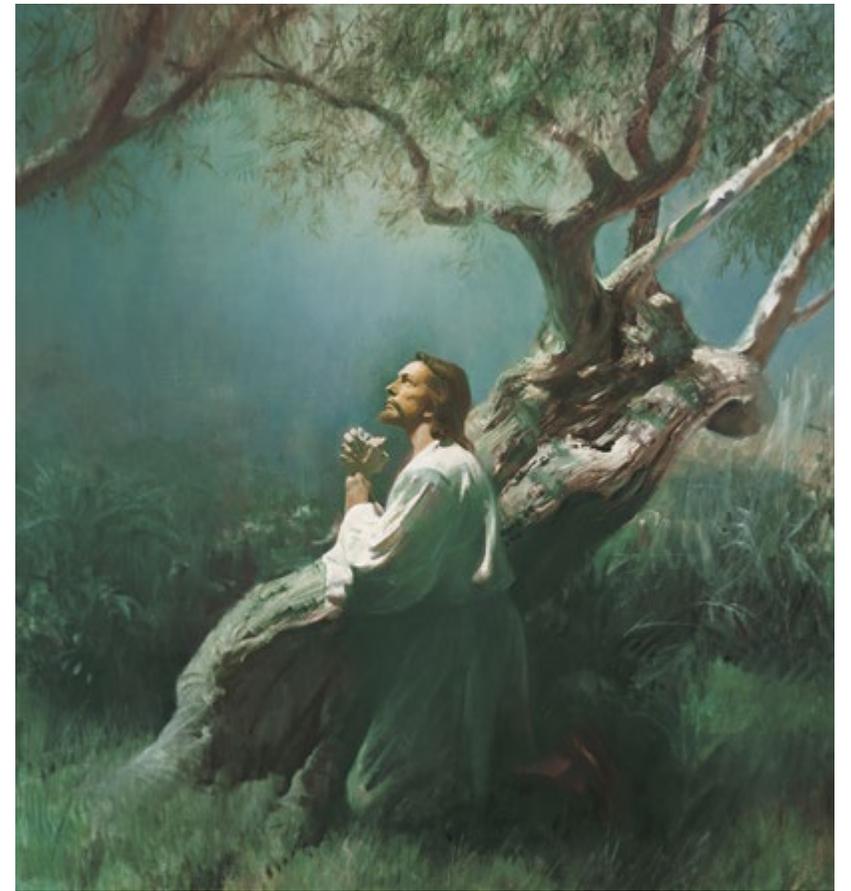


Lesson 39 - “How Beautiful upon the Mountains”

Isaiah 50-53

Purpose: To strengthen our testimony of the Atonement of [Jesus Christ](#).



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/>

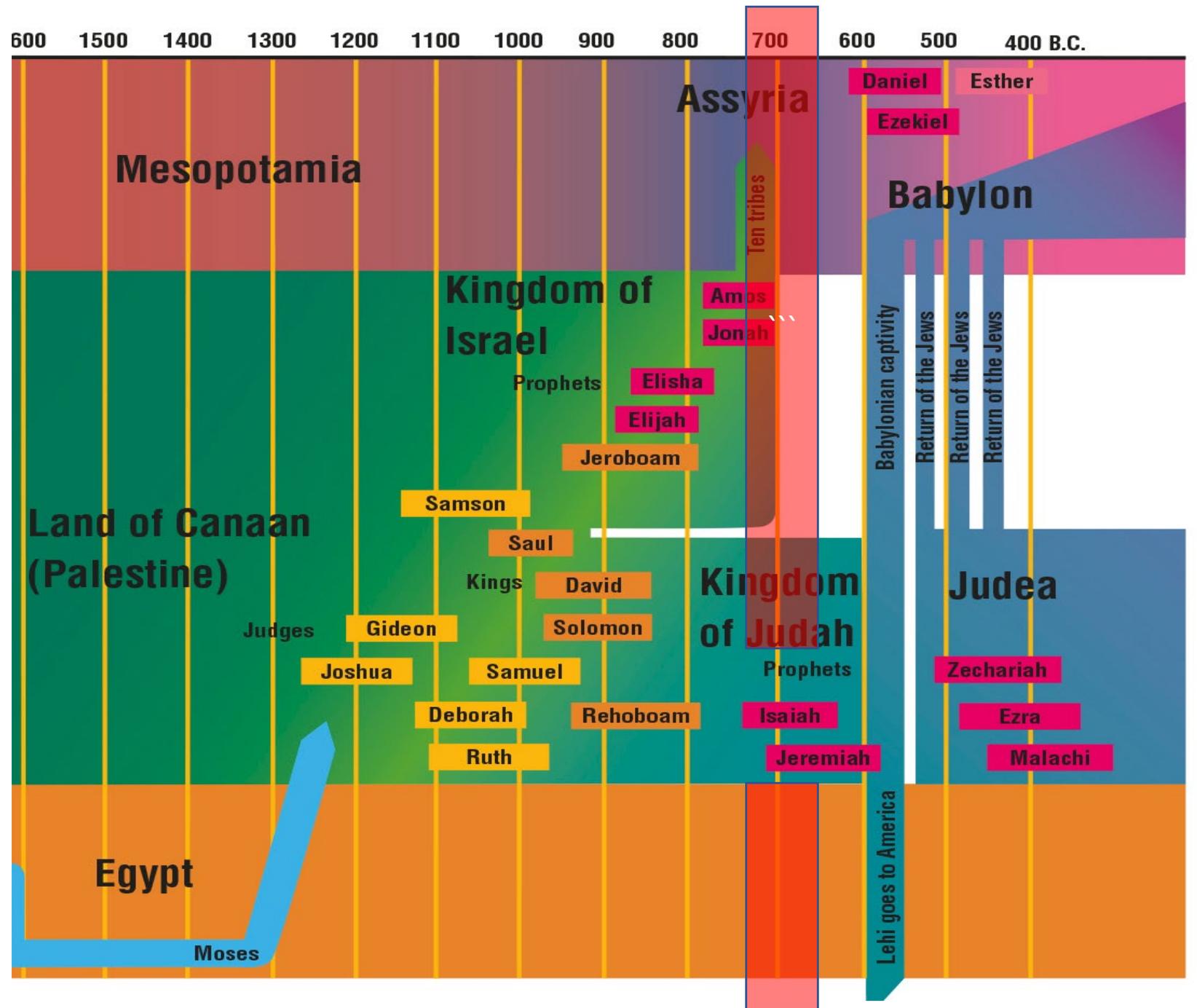
Last Week's Lesson Challenge

Last week 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.

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

Would anyone wish to share their thoughts at this time?

Isaiah



If you knew that there was a scripture reference about Jesus Christ that was repeated six times in the scriptures in the Bible (1), the Book of Mormon (4) and the Doctrine & Covenants (1), would you believe it important to know and understand what the scripture reference said and meant?

Today's lesson is based upon just such a scripture phrase that is first mentioned in Isaiah 52:7.

Isaiah 52:7-10

7 ¶ How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

8 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

9 ¶ Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the Lord hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem.

10 The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Mosiah 15:15-18

15 And O how beautiful upon the mountains were their feet!

16 And again, how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those that are still publishing peace!

17 And again, how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who shall hereafter publish peace, yea, from this time henceforth and forever!

18 And behold, I say unto you, this is not all. For O how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that is the founder of peace, yea, even the Lord, who has redeemed his people; yea, him who has granted salvation unto his people;

1 Nephi 13:37

37 And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.

3 Nephi 20:40

40 And then shall they say: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings unto them, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings unto them of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion: Thy God reigneth!

Mosiah 12:21

21 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings; that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth;

Doctrine and Covenants 128:19

19 Now, what do we hear in the gospel which we have received? A voice of ^agladness! A voice of mercy from heaven; and a voice of ^btruth out of the earth; glad tidings for the dead; a voice of gladness for the living and the dead; glad tidings of great ^cjoy. **How beautiful upon the mountains** are the ^dfeet of those that bring glad tidings of good things, and that say unto Zion: Behold, thy God reigneth! As the ^edews of Carmel, so shall the knowledge of God descend upon them!

Isaiah 52:7-10

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While the scripture phrase "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings" has different connotations – missionary work, the gathering of Israel --, Isaiah looked to Jesus Christ, the Savior, and his mission to atone for the sins of humankind and break the bonds of both physical and spiritual death.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said the following in an October 1996 General Conference address:

Peace and good tidings; good tidings and peace. These are among the ultimate blessings that the gospel of Jesus Christ brings a troubled world and the troubled people who live in it, solutions to personal struggles and human sinfulness, a source of strength for days of weariness and hours of genuine despair. This entire general conference and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which convenes it declare that it is the Only Begotten Son of God Himself who gives us this help and this hope. Such assurance is as "firm as the mountains around us." As the Book of Mormon prophet Abinadi made clear in a slight variation of Isaiah's exclamation:

"O how beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that is the founder of peace, yea, even the Lord, who has redeemed his people; yea, him who has granted salvation unto his people."

Ultimately it is Christ who is beautiful upon the mountain. And it is His merciful promise of "peace in this world," His good tidings of "eternal life in the world to come" that make us fall at His feet and call His name blessed and give thanks for the restoration of His true and living Church.

<https://www.lds.org/general-conference/1996/10/the-peaceable-things-of-the-kingdom?lang=eng>

The list of things that Jesus Christ gave us in His earthly ministry seems endless, but one thing stands out amongst all, His atonement of the sins of humankind. Many of the other things He gave us, were also given by His prophets. Only He could give us His atonement.

Let's review other scriptures from Isaiah 50 – 53 where Isaiah prophesizes on the atonement of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 50:5-7

5 ¶ The Lord God hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.

7 ¶ For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

What would your life be like if you had perfect obedience to the laws of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

Would you have fear? Would you suffer from the hate of others?

No, you would have no doubt of your salvation and eternal life with Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and you would have no shame in what you believe and do throughout your life.

Isaiah 51:4-6

4 ¶ Hearken unto me, my people; and give ear unto me, O my nation: for a law shall proceed from me, and I will make my judgment to rest for a light of the people.

5 My righteousness is near; my salvation is gone forth, and mine arms shall judge the people; the isles shall wait upon me, and on mine arm shall they trust.

6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Jesus Christ is asking us to hearken – not only hear but also obey --, for His Gospel comes before and from the Gospel shall all humankind be judged.

His righteousness is available to all who wait upon Him – look with their hearts and minds for Him --, and trust in Him – obedience to Him.

Jesus Christ's salvation for humankind is eternal and is not part of the things, including the Earth, that will waste away and vanish. His righteousness, His atonement, is forever and will not ever go away or be overcome by the adversary.

Isaiah 51:21-23

21 ¶ Therefore hear now this, thou afflicted, and drunken, but not with wine:

22 Thus saith thy Lord the Lord, and thy God that pleadeth the cause of his people, Behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of the cup of my fury; thou shalt no more drink it again:

23 But I will put it into the hand of them that afflict thee; which have said to thy soul, Bow down, that we may go over: and thou hast laid thy body as the ground, and as the street, to them that went over.

The Lord calls upon those who, by their own hand, have allowed themselves to become afflicted, or imprisoned, by sins and disobedience to the point that is like someone who is an alcoholic but not a slave to alcohol, but to sin.

Through the atonement, Jesus Christ has removed the eternal ravages of our own sins from our own hands and if you obey, you do not need to be sin's prisoner for eternity.

Jesus Christ will conquer physical and spiritual death and put the sins of humankind on Lucifer and those that follow him to be trampled like something lying in the street would be trampled.

Isaiah 53:4-9

4 ¶ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

9 And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.

Some of the most poignant verses in the scriptures. They can bring tears to our eyes.

Isaiah prophesizes on Jesus Christ's suffering at the hands of his beloved children. Suffering that was hurled at Him not only in the end, but throughout His ministry.

As we suffer through the trials of our own mortality, we must never forget the suffering of our Savior, not just at Gethsemane and Golgotha, but throughout His premortal and mortal ministries.

As we sin and disobey, we are part of the suffering that Jesus Christ atoned for. Where we choose not to repent, we deny the atonement's glory and His suffering at Gethsemane.

Isaiah is one of many who prophesized of Jesus Christ's atoning sacrifice for humankind and, more specifically, for us as individual children.

Isaiah was blessed with opportunity to see Jesus Christ's suffering, mortal death, resurrection and redemption of humankind. We are blessed that Isaiah wrote what he saw.

We are blessed that George Frederic Handel was inspired by Isaiah's words to compose The Messiah so that the power of Jesus Christ to overcome all things could be a part of the musical heritage of all humankind.

Allow Isaiah's words to fill your soul and create that burning in your chest that tells you of the truth of his words and the works of Jesus Christ, the Savior of humankind.

This Week's Lesson Challenge

Take the opportunity this week to again read Isaiah 50-53. Also, take the opportunity to listen to Handel's The Messiah and read along in Isaiah and experience the inspiration that Handel felt as he composed The Messiah in only 24 days.

Take this week to gain a renewed faith in the Jesus Christ's atonement.