
Foreword

This course focuses primarily on the teachings in the Old Testament. It also covers the books of Moses and Abraham, which are part of the Pearl of Great Price. Together, these books give us an account of God's dealings with his people from the time of the Council in Heaven to a few hundred years before the Savior's birth. They provide powerful examples of faith and obedience. They also show the consequences of forgetting, disobeying, or opposing God. Prophecies in these books bear witness of the Savior's birth, atonement, second coming, and millennial reign.

This study guide outlines each week's reading assignment, provides insightful application questions, and suggests additional scripture references to give clarity and breadth to your study. (The Bible Dictionary, Topical Guide, and footnotes in the LDS edition of the King James Bible also provide many

helpful insights.) The study guide is designed for the following uses:

- a. *Individual scripture study.* The application questions included with each reading assignment will help you see how the teachings of the Old Testament prophets can help you come closer to Christ.
- b. *Family scripture study.* This study guide will be a valuable tool for lessons in family home evening and for other family discussions.
- c. *Preparation for class discussion.* As you study the reading assignments and consider the application questions, you will be better prepared to make meaningful contributions in your Gospel Doctrine class.

Guided by the Spirit in your study, you will be able to testify with Job, "I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25).

"This Is My Work and My Glory"

Moses 1

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Moses 1:1–11. Moses sees God and talks with him face to face. Moses learns that he is a son of God in the similitude of the Only Begotten of the Father.
 - b. Moses 1:12–23. Satan confronts Moses; Moses casts him out.
 - c. Moses 1:24–39. God appears again and teaches of his work and glory.
- What did Moses learn about God from the experiences described in

Moses 1:1–7? What did Moses learn about himself? What difference can it make in our lives to know that we are children of God, created in the similitude of his Son?

- How did Moses receive strength to resist the temptations of Satan? (See Moses 1:18, 20–21.) How did Moses get Satan to leave? How can prayer strengthen us to resist temptation? What else can we do to gain this strength?
- Even though God has created worlds and people that are numberless to

us, he assured Moses that he knows them all (Moses 1:35). How have you come to feel that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ know you individually and love you?

- Why is it important for us to know what God's work and glory is? What are some specific ways we can assist him in this great work?

"Thou Wast Chosen Before Thou Wast Born"

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Abraham 3; Moses 4:1–4

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Abraham 3:11–12, 22–23; Doctrine and Covenants 138:53–57. Abraham talks with the Lord face to face and learns that in the premortal life many "noble and great" spirits were foreordained to their mortal missions (Abraham 3:11–12, 22–23). President Joseph F. Smith learns more about the "noble and great ones" in a vision of the Savior's visit to the spirit world before His Resurrection (D&C 138:53–57).
 - b. Abraham 3:24–28; Moses 4:1–4. Abraham and Moses are shown in vision that Jesus Christ was chosen in the Council in Heaven to be our Savior and that we chose to follow him. They are also shown that Lucifer (Satan) and the spirits who followed him were cast out of heaven.
- Whom did President Joseph F. Smith see in his vision of the spirit world?

(See D&C 138:53.) What were these people foreordained to do? (See D&C 138:55–56.)

- In addition to foreordaining the prophets to their callings, God foreordained many "other choice spirits" to help build up his kingdom in different ways. What might you have been foreordained to do? (See D&C 138:56.)
- Who were the two spirits in the Council in Heaven who offered to be our Savior? (See Abraham 3:27; Moses 4:1–2.) How did their offers differ? Why did Heavenly Father choose Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer? (See Moses 4:2–3.)

Additional reading: Isaiah 14:12–15; Revelation 12:7–9; Alma 13:3–5; Doctrine and Covenants 29:36–39; and the rest of Abraham 3 and Doctrine and Covenants 138.

The Creation

Moses 1:27–42; 2–3

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Moses 1:27–42. Moses receives a vision of God's creations and is commanded to write an account of the Creation of the earth.
- b. Moses 2:1–25; 3:1–14. Moses learns that God is the Creator of all things.

- c. Moses 2:26–31; 3:7, 15–25. Moses learns that men and women are created in God's image.

- What has God revealed about the purpose of the Creation? (See Moses 1:39; Abraham 3:24–25; see also 1 Nephi 17:36.)

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