

---

## “Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure unto Me”

14

*Exodus 15–20; 32–34*

Study the following scriptures:

a. Exodus 15:22–27; 16:1–31; 17:1–7.

The children of Israel murmur because they are thirsty and hungry; the Lord provides water, manna, and quail.

b. Exodus 17:8–13; 18:13–26. Amalek attacks Israel. Israel prevails while Moses holds up his hands, but Amalek prevails when Moses tires and lowers his hands. Aaron and Hur hold up Moses' hands, and Israel wins the battle (17:8–13). Moses appoints judges, delegating authority to them (18:13–26).

c. Exodus 19–20. The Lord meets with Moses on Mount Sinai and gives Israel the Ten Commandments.

d. Exodus 32–34. Moses receives stone tablets containing instructions from the Lord but breaks the tablets when he sees the people worshiping a golden calf (31:18; 32:1–24). The Lord takes the ordinances of the Melchizedek Priesthood from Israel and gives them a lesser law, the law of Moses (Joseph Smith Translation, Exodus 34:1–2). Moses hews new tablets of stone, but the new tablets do not include “the words of the everlasting covenant of the holy priesthood” (Exodus 34:1–5; Joseph Smith Translation, Deuteronomy

10:2). The people covenant to obey the law of Moses (34:10–35).

- How is manna a representation of Christ? (See John 6:35.) How does Christ's living bread differ from manna? (See John 6:48–51.) How can we daily partake of Christ's living bread?
- What did the Lord promise the children of Israel if they would be obedient? (See Exodus 19:3–6.) How do these promises apply to us today?
- Why did the Lord give the children of Israel the law of Moses? (See Galatians 3:23–24; Mosiah 13:29; Alma 25:15–16; D&C 84:19–27.) How would this law help make Israel holy and bring them to Christ? (See Mosiah 13:30; Alma 34:14–15.)
- When was the law of Moses fulfilled? (See 3 Nephi 15:4–10.) Now that the Lord no longer requires animal sacrifices, which were an important part of the law of Moses, what sacrifice does he ask us to make? (See 3 Nephi 9:19–22.) What does it mean to offer a broken heart and a contrite spirit?

Additional reading: Psalm 78; 1 Corinthians 10:1–11; Doctrine and Covenants 84:19–27.

---

## “Look to God and Live”

*Numbers 11–14; 21:1–9*

15

Study the following scriptures:

a. Numbers 11. The Israelites complain about the manna and desire to eat meat (11:1–9). As instructed by the

Lord, Moses gathers 70 elders to assist him (11:10–17, 24–30). The Lord answers the Israelites' desire for meat by sending them an overabundance

of quail and smiting them with a plague because of their greed and overindulgence (11:18–23, 31–35).

- b. Numbers 12. Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses (12:1–3). The Lord chastens and punishes Miriam and Aaron for their murmuring (12:4–16).
- c. Numbers 13–14. Moses instructs 12 men to search the land of Canaan (13:1–20). They return with favorable reports of the land’s resources, but all except Joshua and Caleb fear the inhabitants and desire to return to Egypt (13:21–14:10). The Lord tells Moses that the faithless and complaining Israelites will wander in the wilderness 40 years, until all of the adult generation are dead but Joshua and Caleb (14:11–39).
- d. Numbers 21:1–9. The Israelites

destroy the Canaanites who come against them (21:1–3). The Lord sends fiery serpents as punishment for the Israelites’ incessant complaining (21:4–6). Moses makes a serpent of brass, fastens it to a pole, and tells the people that if they look at it, they will live (21:7–9).

- Why did the Israelites complain about the manna? (See Numbers 11:4–6.) What are the dangers of wanting more than we have?
- Just as the children of Israel needed to look at the brass serpent to live, we need to look to Jesus Christ to receive eternal life (Alma 37:46–47; Helaman 8:15). What does it mean to look to Christ?

Additional reading: John 3:14–16; 1 Nephi 17:41; Alma 33:18–22; 37:46–47; Helaman 8:13–15.

---

## “I Cannot Go Beyond the Word of the Lord”

*Numbers 22–24; 31:1–16*

# 16

Study the following scriptures:

- a. Numbers 22:1–21. Balak, king of Moab, is terrified by the approach of the Israelites. He offers Balaam rewards if he will come to Moab and curse the Israelites. God commands Balaam to refuse, and Balaam obeys (22:1–14). Balak offers Balaam additional honor and wealth if he will come to Moab and curse Israel. God tells Balaam he can go if he desires but that he must speak only the words God gives him (22:15–21). Balaam decides to go.
- b. Numbers 22:22–35. God is angry with Balaam for going to Moab, knowing that he hopes for some reward from Balak. While on his way, Balaam learns the dangers of displeasing God when his donkey and an angel speak to him.
- c. Numbers 22:36–24:25. Three times Balak asks Balaam to curse Israel, but Balaam obeys God and blesses Israel each time (22:36–24:9). He then curses Moab and prophesies of Jesus Christ (24:10–25).
- d. Numbers 31:1–16. The Israelites destroy the Midianites and slay Balaam. Moses explains that Balaam had counseled the Midianites to entice the Israelites into sin. (The consequences of Balaam’s counsel are described in Numbers 25:1–3. Although Balaam would not curse Israel directly, he apparently wanted a reward from Balak badly enough that he suggested tempting Israel to