

OLD TESTAMENT GOSPEL DOCTRINE CLASS

Green Mountain 1st Ward, Lakewood, Colorado

31 October 2010

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Lesson 39: "How Beautiful upon the Mountains" (Isaiah 50–53)

Introduction



Many Church hymns help us understand the love the Savior showed for us through his atoning sacrifice. This lesson will discuss some of Isaiah's prophecies about the life and mission of the Savior.

Isaiah speaks of messengers who bring glad tidings.

Isaiah 52:7 - Isaiah poetically described people bringing a great message of glad tidings, peace, good, salvation, and the reign of God. Isaiah referred to the messengers' feet because in the ancient world, before electronic communications were available, important messages were often brought by runners traveling on foot. Isaiah uses the messengers'

feet to symbolize the messengers themselves.

Mosiah 15:13-18 - The Book of Mormon prophet Abinadi explained that the messengers described by Isaiah include the prophets and also the Lord himself.

2 Nephi 2:6-8 - These messengers brought a great message of peace and salvation.

In addition to the prophets, we are to take the message of the gospel to the world. Think about experiences you have had with sharing the gospel message. Then, consider your feelings about those who brought the gospel message to you.

Lesson Highlights

- Isaiah speaks of messengers who bring glad tidings.
- Isaiah prophesies of the Savior's atoning sacrifice.
- Isaiah describes some of our responsibilities.

A study of this lesson will strengthen our testimony of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

Next Week

#40 "Enlarge the Place of Thy Tent" (Isaiah 54–56; 63–65)

"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!"

—Isaiah 52:7

Elder McConkie: *"Our Lord himself was 'a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief' (Is. 53:3-4; Mosiah 14:3-4), meaning that he both suffered pain and had sadness and disappointment caused by the unbelief of his fellow mortals."* Mormon Doctrine, p747)

In speaking of the agony at Gethsemane, **B.H. Roberts** wrote: *"He felt the whole burden and mystery of the world's sin, and encountered the fiercest assaults of Satan.... His sorrow did not spring from His own life, His memory or His fears, but from the vicarious nature of the conflict. The agony was a bearing of the weight and sorrow of our sins, in loneliness, in anguish of soul threatening to crush His body, yet borne triumphantly, because in submission to His Father's will."* (The Seventy's Course in Theology, 2:127)

Isaiah prophecies of the Savior's atoning sacrifice.

The following prophecies are about the Savior's atoning sacrifice and the blessings it provides us.

Isaiah 50:5-7 - This passage teaches us about the Savior's attitude toward the great sacrifice he was to make in our behalf. He was not ashamed and was willing to take whatever he would be subjected to so that he might accomplish his mission.

Matthew 26:39 and **Philippians 2:8** teach about the Savior's attitude as he faced great suffering. Even though He asked that the cup might pass from him, he wanted to do his Father's will, not his own.

Isaiah 51:6 – A comparison is made between heaven and earth in this verse, contrasting the difference between that which is temporary and that which is everlasting.

Mosiah 16:9; Alma 34:10, Alma 34:14 – These verses assure us that the effects of the Atonement will last forever. Its effects are infinite and eternal.

Isaiah 51:22 – Here, the Savior pleads for his people.

D&C 45:3-5 - The Atonement allows the Savior to be our Advocate.

D&C 19:15-20 - The "cup of trembling" that Jesus has drunk for us is payment for our sins.

To receive the full blessings offered through the Atonement, we must go to Christ with a broken heart and con-

trite spirit, repent fully of our sins, and covenant to obey his commandments.

Isaiah 52:3; 2 Nephi 26:27-28; Isaiah 55:1-3 – We are "redeemed without money" because redemption is free to all who will accept its price—repentance and obedience.

Isaiah 53:2-4; Alma 7:11-13; Hebrews 2:16-18; Hebrews 4:15 - These verses tell us about the life of the Savior—that he is acquainted with sorrows and grief from his own experiences, so he understands our sorrows and our grief and can empathize with our situation.

Those acquainted with the Savior have sensed that he understands their sorrows and grief. They have felt his comforting presence during their trials.

Isaiah 53:5 - The Savior was willing to suffer the pain of being wounded, bruised, and scourged because he is loving, kind, and long-suffering toward his people. (See 1 Nephi 19:9.)

Isaiah 53:6-7 – The Savior displayed firm resolve, steadfastness, submissiveness and humility when he was oppressed, afflicted, and made to bear our iniquities. Sometimes we choose to "turn [our] own way" rather than submit to Heavenly Father's will. If we develop proper humility and gratitude for our Savior, his example will help us submit to

Heavenly Father's will.

Isaiah 53:10 - Isaiah said that "it pleased the Lord to bruise" the Savior. This meant that the Father was pleased to see that his son was willing to give his life and complete his mission in a voluntary sacrifice to prove his love for his Father.

John 3:16-17 - From this passage we learn that Heavenly Father's love for us was so deep that he was willing to sacrifice his Only Begotten Son for us.

Isaiah 53:8-11 - The Book of Mormon prophet Abinadi gave a powerful commentary on these verses when he was speaking to the wicked priests of King Noah (Mosiah 15:10-13).

Mosiah 5:7-8 - According to Abinadi, those who are willing to follow him and be faithful to him will be the seed of the Savior, being adopted by him as sons and daughters; being spiritually begotten by him.

Isaiah 53:12 - At the end of a battle, the leader of the victorious army divides the fruits of victory among his followers.

Romans 8:16-17; 2 Timothy 4:7-8 – These passages tell us what the fruits of Christ's victory over sin and death are. The fruits that he is willing to share with us are celestial glory, a crown of righteousness, and all the Lord receives as an heir.

Isaiah describes some of our responsibilities.

Isaiah 51 and **Isaiah 52** – The following passages point out the responsibilities we have as those who have accepted the Savior's Atonement.

• **Isaiah 51:1, 4, 7.** Listen to and obey the Lord; do not

fear the revilings of men.

• **Isaiah 51:12-13.** Remember the Lord, who is the Creator. Do not fear Satan.

• **Isaiah 52:1-2.** Awake and put on the strength of the priesthood (see **D&C**

113:7-8). Put on the beautiful garments of righteousness (**Revelation 19:7-8**). "Loose thyself from the bands of thy neck" (see **D&C 113:9-10**).

• **Isaiah 52:11.** Depart from the wickedness of the

world. Do not touch unclean things; be clean.

Think about how we as members of the Church and kingdom can better fulfill each of these responsibilities.

Walking in the light

Isaiah 50:10-11 - Isaiah gives us a choice in these verses. If we choose to fear the Lord, obey the voice of his servants, and trust him, we will have his light to

guide us and will not walk in darkness (John 8:12; John 12:46). If we choose to walk in our own light, which is compared to the light of sparks, the Lord warns that we will "lie down in sorrow."

Conclusion

In Mosiah 15:18, the prophet Abinadi describes the Savior as a messenger whose feet are beautiful upon the mountains. One reason his feet are beautiful is that they bear the prints of the nails, the tokens of his atoning love. For most of us, the teachings of Isaiah have strengthened our love for the Savior and our desire to be worthy of the blessings of his atoning sacrifice.

John Whitmer: *"Now if a man is clean, according to the word of the Lord he will not be unclean in his person; he will be neat and cleanly in his apparel; yea, he will keep all the commandments of God, and then he will come into the presence of God, and 'Lift up clean hands, and a pure heart without wrath and doubting.' It is in vain for the disciples of Jesus to tell us that they can have the spirit of God, when we can see nothing but filth and uncleanness about their dwellings: God has declared that he did not dwell in unholy temples. Surely if we are unholy we expect to come short of the celestial kingdom, unless we reform and become as we should." (Messenger and Advocate, Sep. 1835, p187)*

Gospel Doctrine Notebook

Record your thoughts on the teachings discussed in this lesson.

- How have you sensed that the Savior understands your sorrows and grief?
- How can the Savior's example help us to submit to Heavenly Father's will?
- How can you better fulfill your responsibility as a follower of the Savior?