

Summary Handout

“Come unto Christ”

Lesson

48

Summary

Moroni 7–8; 10

Scripture Summary: *An invitation to enter into the rest of the Lord—Pray with real intent—The Spirit of Christ enables men to know good from evil—Satan persuades men to deny Christ and do evil—The prophets manifest the coming of Christ—By faith miracles are wrought and angels minister—Men should hope for eternal life and cleave unto charity.*

Infant baptism is an evil abomination—Little children are alive in Christ because of the atonement—Faith, repentance, meekness and lowliness of heart, receiving the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end lead to salvation. [Between A.D. 400 and 421]

A testimony of the Book of Mormon comes by the power of the Holy Ghost—The gifts of the Spirit are dispensed to the faithful—Spiritual gifts always accompany faith—Moroni’s words speak from the dust—Come unto Christ, be perfected in him, and sanctify your souls. [About A.D. 421]

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights: **Three Attributes of God-fearing People:** A Jewish look at three words is illuminating, Faith (*emunah*), Hope (*tikvah*) and Charity (*zedakah*) or (*hesed*). The word faith as discussed in the last lesson has the element of practice or work. Judaism has, however, evolved to the point that *immun* (practice or works) has become more important than belief.

Thirteen Articles of Faith: Jewish belief has evolved to the point there is no place for a “shared Godhead” and hence no place for “Jesus as a Messiah (Christ).” “As the Jews came into contact more and more with Muslim and Christian religious philosophy during the Middle Ages, the need was felt for a definitive statement of those beliefs that make a Jew a Jew.” “Perhaps the most famous . . . is the Thirteen Principles of Faith of Maimonides. (1) The existence of God, which is perfect; (2) God is ‘one’ in every sense of the word; (3) God has no body or physical attributes; (4) God is eternal; (5) God alone must be worshiped; (6) the prophecy of the Bible is true; (7) Moses was greater than any other prophet; (8) the entire Torah was given to Moses; (9) the Torah will never be superseded or abrogated; (10) God knows the actions of men; (11) God rewards and punishes; (12) the Messiah will ultimately come; and (13) the dead will be resurrected.”

True Faith Is More than Belief: Having faith in the Lord and believing things that are true brings confirmation and His verification and validation. You will know that your belief is true. True faith transcends a wish. The word “hope” is also more than a wish. It is a powerful expectation somehow connected with Heaven and redemption. “A fitting symbol of the Jews’ desire for their own land, government and defense is the “accepted” national anthem *Ha-Tikvah* (“The Hope”).” “At the Declaration of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, *Ha-Tikvah* was sung at the opening ceremony . . . however, *Ha-Tikvah* has never been given official status as a national anthem by a proclamation of the Knesset.”

Hope for Saints and Sinners: “Although Judaism sees sin as a most serious matter, even the sinner is not without hope. One of the most important theological doctrines of both the Bible and the Talmud is that if a sinner repents his bad deeds, God will forgive him. “Children are considered a great blessing; they are the hope and the promise of continuing life.” “. . . it was the hope of redemption that sustained Jews through centuries of suffering and persecution.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Festival of Hope: The great redemption festival for the Jews is Passover. At the Seder meal, parsley and lettuce or other green vegetables are dipped into salted water. The greens are associated with the hope of spring. Passover is in the spring as a memory of the past redemption and the hope of a future greater deliverance that comes from heaven. Latter-day Saints believe that the fulfilment of hope, the heaven-sent Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth, was born in the spring – at Passover. His death, resurrection and subsequent atonement were also at Passover.

Charity—Result of Faith and Hope: Along with faith and hope comes charity. In Hebrew it is called *zedakah* or righteousness. Sometimes charity is called *hesed*, loving kindness. Charity is the energy that reflects the faith and hope of a person following God. “Although the idea of charity and almsgiving is spread throughout the whole of the Bible, there is no special term for it. The rabbis of the Talmud, however, adopted the word (*zedakah*) for charity and it is used (but not exclusively so) throughout rabbinic literature in the sense of helping the needy by gifts. The word has since passed into popular usage and is almost exclusively used for charity. The term *hesed* (‘loving kindness’), which is used widely in the Bible, has taken on the meaning of physical aid, or lending money without interest.”

Charity Is More than a Favor, it Is an Obligation: “The word *zedakah* literally means ‘righteousness’ or ‘justice’; by their very choice of word the rabbis reveal a great deal of their attitude to the subject, for they see charity not as a favor to the poor but something to which they have a right, and the donor, an obligation. The importance the rabbis attached to the *mitzvah* of *zedakah* can be understood from Rabbi Assi who stated that ‘*zedakah* is as important as all the other commandments put together’ and from Rabbi Eleazar who expounded the verse ‘to do righteousness (*zedakah*) and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice’ (Proverbs 21:3) to mean that charity is greater than all the sacrifices.”

How Much? “To give a tenth of one's wealth to charity is considered to be a ‘middling’ virtue, to give a 20th or less is to be ‘mean’; but the rabbis decided that one should not give more than a fifth lest he become impoverished himself and dependent on charity.” “The rabbis were especially concerned about the manner in which alms are to be dispensed. The prime consideration is that nothing be done that might shame the recipient. About one pious man it was related that if he met a man of good family who had become impoverished he would say, ‘I have heard that a legacy has been left to you in such a place; take this money in advance and pay me back later.’ When the man accepted it he then said to him, ‘It is a gift.’”

Eight Ways of Giving: “Maimonides lists eight ways of giving *zedakah* which are progressively more virtuous: to give . . . (1) but sadly; (2) less than is fitting, but in good humor; (3) only after having been asked to; (4) before being asked; (5) in such a manner that the donor does not know who the recipient is, (6) in such a manner that the recipient does not know who the donor is; and (7) in such a way that neither the donor nor the recipient knows the identity of the other.” (8) Help the poor to rehabilitate themselves by lending them money, taking them into partnership, employing them, or giving them work, for in this way the purpose is achieved without any loss of self-respect at all.”

Dispensing Kindness: “This last way of helping the poor is known as *gemilut hasadim*, ‘dispensing kindness.’ This term also includes aiding people who need help and encouragement and includes such matters as visiting the sick and looking after them and inviting needy guests to eat at your home. One of the greatest acts of charity is to provide for orphans.” (*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

Jerusalem, Center for Faith, Hope and Charity: In Israel, the centers for charity, hope and faith are usually focused in Jerusalem. Jews pray three times a day for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. One day, it will be the City of The Lord where all faith, hope and charity will emanate from the Lord Himself. “And awake, and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion; and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the Eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled.” (*Moro ni 10:31*)

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament and Book of Mormon Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available FREE at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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