

“A Chosen Generation”

Lesson
43
Summary

1 and 2 Peter; Jude

Scripture Summary:

1 Pet. 2: The trial of our faith precedes salvation—Christ foreordained to be the Redeemer. 1 Pet. 2: Converts are newborn babes in Christ—He is the chief cornerstone—Saints hold a royal priesthood and are a peculiar people—We are in subjection to the laws of man.: 1 Pet. 3: Husbands and wives should honor each other—Saints should live by gospel standards—Christ preached unto the spirits in prison. 1 Pet. 4 Why gospel is preached unto the dead—Saints should speak as the oracles of God—The righteous will be tried and tested in all things. 1 Pet. 5: The elders are to feed the flock of God—Humility and godly graces lead to perfection. 2 Pet. 1: Peter exhorts the saints to make their calling and election sure—Prophecy comes by the power of the Holy Ghost. 2 Pet. 2: False teachers among the saints are damned—Lustful saints shall perish in their own corruption. 2 Pet. 3: Latter-day scoffers deny the Second Coming—Elements to melt at the coming of the Lord. Contend for the faith—Some angels kept not their first estate—Michael disputed about the body of Moses—Enoch prophesied of Second Coming—Mockers shall come in the last days.

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

The supplemental material for this lesson comes from Daniel Rona’s introduction of the symposium on Covenant and Chosenness sponsored by the Ensign Foundation. Two highly-educated teams of Jews and Latter-day Saints joined together at Denver University on January 26, 1998 to present and discuss each other’s concept of being “chosen.” It matches the theme of this lesson.

“How Odd of God, to Choose the Jews:” W.N. Ewer, who wrote this jingle, could not understand why Israel is God's Chosen People. In “Fiddler on the Roof,” Tevia asks, “God could maybe choose someone else?” Moses explains it thus: “The Lord did not set His love upon you because ye were more in number than any people . . . but because the Lord loved you, and because He would keep the oath which He had sworn to your fathers . . . Know therefore that the LORD . . . is the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;” (Deuteronomy 7:7-9) “The covenant which signifies the special relationship between God and Israel is based on Israel being elected by God. God has chosen the Jews. Israel has also chosen God.” “This is the thrust of the anonymous retort to the above jingle: "Its not so odd, the Jews chose God. (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

Being Chosen Means Accepting Responsibilities: “The prophet Isaiah says that Israel, God's servant, has been chosen for the task of spreading salvation. Israel must convince the other nations of the world that there is only one God, and must spread the true religion, and through it, happiness. “The prophet Jeremiah was extraordinarily important in the history of the people of Israel. In his criticisms of the people for their transgressions . . . and that after the sinful generation had died out God would contract a new covenant with the reformed people . . . ” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.) “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:” (Jeremiah 31:31-32)

Leadership Responsibilities Include Judah and Joseph: More than ten million Latter-day Saints call themselves “a remnant of Israel,” mostly from the ancient tribe of Joseph through his son Ephraim. Their modern-day scriptures, living prophets, gathering in a land of “New Jerusalem” and identifying themselves as a “chosen people” has prompted reflection. Both Jews and Ephraimites are chosen - whether they like it or not. Both see each other as having ‘chosen’ responsibilities. Jews maintain a tradition, an “Aggadah” of a “Messiah Ben Joseph.” The late Rabbi Avraham HaCohen Kook referred to the tradition when asked if the (Jerusalem) temple could be built soon. He deferred to a latter-day Joseph saying, “To him will be given the keys of the gathering of Israel, he will restore temple worship.” Yet, the Latter-day Saints maintain that the Jews will build that temple.

LDS President John Taylor Instructs Baron Rothschild, a Prominent Jew: Rothschild said, “Elder Taylor, what do you mean by this (Salt Lake) temple?” President Taylor answered, “. . . One of your prophets said – ‘The Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple’ . . . sir, will you point me out a place on the face of the earth where God has a temple?” Rothschild said, “. . . Do you consider that this is that temple?” President Taylor answered, “No, sir, it is not . . . The Lord has told us to build this temple so that we may administer therein [ordinances] for our dead and . . . matrimonial . . . covenants . . . you Jews have quite a role to perform in the latter days . . . you will be gathered to old

Jerusalem . . . you will build a temple there; and when you build that temple, and the time has arrived, ‘the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple.’” (Gospel Kingdom, John Taylor, Page 293)

Fulfilling Scriptural Prophecy, Judah Has a Chosen Role: A new temple in Jerusalem--you know, Jews pray for it at least three times a day. And as a first step, Jerusalem, where the temple will stand again, has become the capital of a modern State of Israel. “. . . not chosen arbitrarily; it was recognized as the historic land of the Jews, to which they had a closer connection and more justifiable claim than any other group. The national home was not to be established, but re-established after a 2,000 year exile.” (Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.)

Additional Scripture Reemphasises Joseph’s Chosen Role: On the other hand and to another part of the Israelite family, America also has a place as a chosen land as described in the *Book of Mormon*. “During the latter part of the 4th century A.D., Mormon, a prophet-general, made a compilation and abridgment of the records of the people of Lehi, a Jew who led a colony of his family and friends from Jerusalem to their American promised land in 600 B.C. Mormon's son Moroni added a few words of his own to the record . . . the records of these . . . peoples, preserved on the Gold Plates, were translated by Joseph Smith and are known as the Book of Mormon. The main part of the work deals with the period from 600 B.C. to 421 A.D.” (Mormon Doctrine, Bruce McConkie, Page 98) These words are considered books of prophets, firstly because their authors were divinely inspired, and secondly because they are more than histories of another part of Israel: they also record the covenant between God and those Israelites, and they stress that only by continued and faithful adherence to that covenant can all of Israel hope to survive.

Two Peoples, Jews and Latter-day Saints Are Part of the Covenant: They are members of one family, separated by distance and time, who now seem to be coming together. In former days we may have heard, “How odd of God to choose the Jews;” and now in latter days we may hear, “There are complaints He chose the Saints.” (Nonetheless) Saints and Jews, we are a family, a chosen family!

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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