

## Summary Handout

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# “Beware Lest Thou Forget”

Lesson

17

Summary

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*Deuteronomy 6; Moses proclaims: The Lord our God is one Lord; and, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God—Israel commanded to teach their children—Moses exhorts Israel to keep commandments and testimonies and statutes of the Lord, that they may prosper.*

*Deuteronomy 8; The Lord tested Israel in wilderness for forty years—Eating manna taught them that man lives by word of God—Their raiment waxed not old—The Lord chastened them—If Israel shall serve other gods, they shall perish.*

*Deuteronomy 11; Thou shalt love and obey the Lord thy God—If Israel obeys they shall be blessed with rain and harvests and drive out mighty nations—Israel must learn God's laws and teach them—Blessings flow from obedience; cursings attend disobedience.*

*Deuteronomy 32; Israel shall sing the song of Moses, acclaiming: God speaks to heaven and earth; Israel was known in pre-existence; God chose them in this life; they forgot the Rock of their salvation; he sent terror and a sword and vengeance upon them; there is no God beside him—Moses gathered to his people.*

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### Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

**How Are You Using Your Anchors?** The Children of Israel did so poorly in keeping a “spiritual” standard that Moses endeavored to give them a more “physical” standard. The advantage of having physical items as “anchors” to keep reminding us of spiritual goals is evident and useful. However, to many people like the Children of Israel, the physical aspects became more important than what they should be reminders of.

**Bound on Head and Arms:** Examples of this are the “Tfillin” (phylacteries) and “Mezuzah.” They are in common use for religious Jews in keeping the word of the Lord as “frontlets before your eyes.” There was an explanation of these in the previous Lesson #5 supplement.

**The Rock:** The term “Rock of Salvation” is precious in Jewish terminology. As in many terms or phrases, their familiarity in the present tense will be a mindful leap to their full-intended meanings in the future. In the following quotes, the references to “rock” have been underlined for emphasis.

**The Synagogue Prayers:** “During the morning service the entire *Hallel* is said on each of the eight days and a special addition, *Al Ha-Nissim* (For the miracles . . . ) is made in every *Amidah* as well as in the Grace After Meals. The reading from the Torah describes the sacrifices brought by the princes at the dedication of the sanctuary, and the kindling of the candelabrum; special *haftarot* are prescribed for the Sabbaths of Hanukkah. In the Ashkenazi rite, a hymn called *Ma'oz Zur* (O Fortress, Rock of my salvation) is sung. This song originated in Germany, probably in the 13th century. It consists of five stanzas, each of which describes a period in Jewish history, the last being the Hanukkah miracle. A final stanza is a prayer for the coming of the Messiah.”

**Memorial Day:** “During Remembrance Day itself, memorial services are held at public monuments to the fallen and in military cemeteries throughout Israel. All flags are lowered to half-mast. Special prayers include the recital of Psalm 9: “For the leader, on the death of the son,” and Psalm 144: “Blessed be the Lord, my Rock, who traineth my hands for war and my fingers for battle.”

**Sabbath and Holiday Prayers:** “*Adon Olam* (“Lord of the world”) . . . is a rhymed poem of unknown authorship, which was probably written in Babylon around the tenth century. The present version, as it appears in the Ashkenazi service, consists of ten verses. The first six speak of God the eternal, all-powerful and ever-ruling Creator of the universe. The next four verses are more personal in nature. Here, God is much closer to the individual worshiper, his hopes and his fears. “He is my God, my Redeemer, my Rock in time of trouble.” Because the worshiper is confident of God's power and also aware of His personal concern, he closes his song by saying:

*Into His Hand I entrust my soul*

*Both while I sleep and when I am awake  
And with my soul, my body too  
The Lord is with me, I shall not fear.*

In many congregations, *Adon Olam* is sung at the conclusion of the *Musaf* service for Sabbath and holidays.”  
(*Encyclopedia Judaica Jr.*)

**Who Is Your Rock?** There is another sensitive parallel to be seen in the lesson Moses learned as he struck the rock. Giving “Living Water” to the Israelites, Moses was reminded who the real “Rock of Salvation” was. Peter (a Greek nickname for Simon), son of Jonah, who when sinking in the Sea of Galilee cried out to the Lord, “Save me,” was probably being taught – as Moses was – who the real “Rock of Salvation” was. The Lord’s highest trusted servants on the earth were honored with titles or names emulating their Master. And that was just the point - HE is the master.

**Moses Buried?** As to Moses’ death and burial, it is interesting that the Moslems have venerated a place west of the Jordan river, at the beginning of the mouth of the canyon that leads up to Jerusalem from the Dead Sea called “Nebi Musa,” where Moses was buried.

**Got Two Chairs?** The Jews are still waiting for the prophets Moses and Elijah to return. Two seats are traditionally and historically reserved for them in every synagogue. At one of the early meetings of the “Bnai Shalom” group (Jewish/Mormon cultural group), the late Apostle LeGrand Richards once remarked that he saw two beautifully decorated chairs fastened to the wall of a synagogue he was visiting. Knowingly, he asked the Rabbi, “What are those two chairs for?” The reply came quickly that they were being kept for Elijah and Moses. Elder Richards, seizing the moment and using his wonderful sense of humor said, “Get them down, they’ve already been here!”

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants and Church History 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](http://www.HolyLandsRevealed.com). (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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