

# Old Testament Lesson 1

## “THIS IS MY WORK AND MY GLORY”, Moses 1

Prepared by Duane S. Crowther, January 2002

### Introduction: Why Study the Old Testament and the books of Moses and Abraham?

A. “The Old Testament is an account of God’s dealings with his covenant people from the time of the Creation to a few hundred years before the Savior’s birth.

B. “The Old Testament provides powerful examples of faith and obedience.

C. “It also shows the consequences of forgetting, disobeying, or opposing God.

D. “Its prophecies bear witness of the Messiah’s birth, redeeming sacrifice, second coming, and millennial reign.

E. “In addition to the Old Testament, this course includes the books of Moses and Abraham from the Pearl of Great Price. These books provide important additions and clarifications to some of the material in the book of Genesis.

1. “The book of Moses is an extract from the Joseph Smith Translation of the Bible. [For additional information about the Joseph Smith translation, see ‘Joseph Smith Translation,’ *Bible Dictionary*, page 717. Note also that selections from the Joseph Smith Translation are included after the Bible Dictionary in the Latter-day Saint edition of the King James Bible.]

2. “The Book of Abraham is a translation that the Prophet Joseph Smith made from some Egyptian papyri.” [*Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual*, 2001, pp. 1-2]

### 1. In the Book of Moses, Jesus Speaks as if He Is God the Father.

A. “Class members should understand that Jehovah, not Heavenly Father, appeared to Moses in this vision. *Jehovah was the premortal Jesus Christ and the God of the Old Testament*. He is one with his Father in purpose and represents him in power and authority. His words are those of the father, and sometimes, as in Moses 1:6, he speaks in the first person for the Father.” [*Ibid.*, p. 1]

B. Though Jehovah, in the Book of Moses, speaks in the first person as if he is God the Father, he clearly identifies that it is he [Jehovah] who is speaking:

1. *Moses 1:3*: “I am the Lord God Almighty.” Compare: Jesus is the “Lord God omnipotent.” [Rev. 19:6]

2. *Moses 1:3, 7:35*: “Endless is my name.” Compare: Jesus says “Endless is my name.” *D&C 19:10*. {See *Is. 63:16; Mos. 16:9*}

3. *Moses 1:3*: “I am without beginning of days or end of years.” Christ is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. *Rev. 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13; 3 Ne. 9:18; D&C 19:1; 38:1; 45:7*.

C. Jesus told his followers, “the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” [*Jn. 14:10*] In certain scriptures which have been revealed by Jesus Christ, Jesus speaks for the Father in first person, even referring to himself as “mine Only Begotten Son.” In the book of Moses, the Lord speaks of himself as the Only Begotten Son in 1:6, 17, 32; 2:1, 26, 27; 3:18; 4:1, 3; 5:9 6:52, 57; and 7:50, 59, 62 For other scriptures where Jesus speaks of himself as the Only Begotten Son, see: *D&C 29:1, 42-46; 76:1-5, 25, 35, 57; 124:1-2, 123*.

D. See *The Father and the Son: A Doctrinal Exposition by The First Presidency and The Twelve*, which explains the relationship of Jesus Christ to God the Father, and why Jesus in certain scriptures is designated as or speaks as the Father, including item 4: *Jesus Christ the “Father” by Divine Investiture of Authority*. [Found in Talmage, James E., *The Articles of Faith*, pp. 466-

473] See also Talmage, *Jesus the Christ*, chapter 4, pp. 32-41.

## 2. **Three Key Concepts from Moses Chapter 1:**

A. We are children of God (spirit children of God the Father; adopted children of Christ [in the sense of being true followers] when we accept and live His gospel.

B. We can resist Satan's temptations.

C. God's work and glory is to bring to pass our immortality and eternal life.

## 3. **Moses saw God and talked with him face to face. Moses learned that he is a son of God, in the similitude of the Only Begotten of the Father.** [*Moses 1:1-11*]

A. Moses received this revelation after he saw the burning bush (Moses 1:17) and before he liberated the people of Israel and parted the Red Sea (Moses 1:25-26).

B. **Moses saw God face to face.** [*Moses 1:2*]

1. "The glory of God was upon Moses; therefore Moses could endure his presence." [1:2]

2. "No man can behold all my glory, and afterwards remain in the flesh on the earth."

[1:5]

3. Moses saw God with his spiritual eyes, and was transfigured before him. [1:11]

C. **God showed Moses the workmanship of his hands; his works are without end.** [1:4]

1. Moses was shown "the world upon which he was created; . . . the world and the ends thereof, and all the children of men which are, and which were created. [1:8]

2. "Moses beheld the earth, . . . all of it. . . . also the inhabitants thereof." [1:27-28]

3. "He beheld many lands; and each land was called earth, and there were inhabitants on the face thereof." [1:29]

4. "Worlds without number have I created; . . . for mine own purpose; and by the Son I created them, which is mine Only Begotten." [1:32-33]

5. "The first man of all men have I called Adam, which is many." [1:34]

6. "But only an account of this earth, and the inhabitants thereof, give I unto you." [1:35]

7. "Many worlds have passed away by the word of my power. And there are many that now stand, and innumerable are they unto man; but all things are numbered unto me." [1:35]

8. "As one earth shall pass away, and the heavens thereof, even so shall another come; and there is no end to my works, neither to my words." [1:38]

4. **The presence of God withdrew from Moses**, that his glory was not upon Moses; and Moses was left unto himself. [1:9]

A. "Now, for this cause I know that man is nothing." [1:10]

B. "His spirit hath not altogether withdrawn from me." [1:15]

5. **When Satan tempted Moses, Moses rebuked him and commanded him to depart.** [*1:12-21*]

A. "I am a son of God, in the similitude of his Only Begotten." [1:13]

B. "Get thee hence, Satan; deceive me not." [1:16]

C. "And Moses received strength, and called upon God, saying: In the name of the Only Begotten, depart hence, Satan." [1:21]

5. **Moses' second vision of God.** [*Moses 1:24-42*]

A. "*For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.*" [1:39]

B. "In the day when the children of men shall esteem my words as naught and take many of them from the book which thou shalt write, . . . I will raise up another like unto thee." [1:41]

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