

November 3, 2002

Next Weeks Lesson: "I Have Made Thee This Day...an Iron Pillar"
(Jeremiah 1-2, 15; 20; 26; 36-38)

This Weeks Lesson: "Enlarge the Place of Thy Tent" (Isaiah 54-56; 63-65)

1. Drawing of a tent on the chalkboard.

2. Isaiah 54:2 states, "Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitation: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes."

- A. Enlarge the place of thy tent _____
- B. Stretch forth the curtains _____
- C. Spare not _____
- D. Lengthen thy cords _____
- E. Strengthen thy stakes _____

3. President Ezra Taft Benson Said: "The term stake is a symbolic expression. Picture in your mind a great tent held together by cords extended to many stakes that are firmly secured in the ground. The prophets likened latter-day Zion to a great tent encompassing the earth. That tent was supported by cords fastened to stakes. Those stakes, of course, are various geographical organizations spread out over the earth. Presently, Israel is being gathered to the various stakes of Zion." (Ensign, Jan. 1991, 2)

4. Isaiah 54:3 adds some other insights to these "stakes".

5. What can we do to "strengthen our stakes" here on the Wasatch front, so that the rest of the "curtain" will cover the entire earth?

6. In what way does **D&C 115:5-6** add additional meaning to the words of Isaiah?

7. Isaiah 54:4-17 speak of the gathering of the lost tribes of Israel. How do these verses demonstrate the great love of the Lord, even though his people have rejected him?

8. Isaiah 55:1-7 continue to issue advise to those who will be gathered.

9. Isaiah 55:8-9 give us some marvelous insights into the mind of the Lord. What message is being delivered to us in these verses?

The Millennium will be a time of peace and joy.

Throughout his writings, Isaiah testified that although there would be struggles, temptations, and sufferings in this world, good would overcome evil in the end, and for the righteous, the future would be full of joy. Isaiah prayed fervently for the Second Coming of the Savior, which would bring retribution for the wicked and great rejoicing for the righteous. (Isaiah 64) The closing chapters of Isaiah present a beautiful picture of the millennium, the thousand-year period of peace that will be ushered in by the Savior's Second Coming.

1. Isaiah 65:17-19 What "new creation" is the Lord speaking of?

2. Isaiah 65:20 What will the age of the people be?

3. Isaiah 65:21-23 How are the conditions described here different that today?

4. Isaiah 65:24 Will the Lord indeed know the thoughts of our minds and hearts?

5. Isaiah 66:25 and 11:6-9 describe the conditions of man and beast.

The True Law of the Fast.

Isaiah 58 give some great reasons to fast and rewards if obeyed properly.

Verse 4 lists some possible reasons for an honest fast:

- A. For strife
- B. For debate
- C. To smite wickedness

Verse 6

- D. Loose the bands of wickedness
- E. Undo heavy burdens
- F. Let the oppressed go free
- G. Break every yoke

Verses 8-12 discuss the rewards if items A-G are accomplished through a fast:

- A. Thy light break forth.
- B. Thine health spring forth speedily.
- C. Thy righteousness shall be before thee.
- D. The glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.
- E. When you call the Lord he **will** answer.
- F. Take away your yoke.
- G. Thy light shall rise as noonday
- H. The Lord will guide you continually.
- I. Cause the heavens to rain and fail not.
- J. They that "are of thee" shall "raise up the foundations of many generations".
- K. You will be the "repairer of the breach".

President Spencer W. Kimball said: "I think that when we are affluent, as many of us are, that we ought to be very, very generous....and give, instead of the amount we saved by out two meals of fasting, perhaps much, much more---ten times more when we are in a position to do it.' (April 1974, 184)