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Next Weeks Lesson: Lesson 25 "They Taught with Power and Authority of God" ([Alma 17-22](#))

Today's Lesson: Lesson 24 "Give Us Strength According to Our Faith ... in Christ" ([Alma 13-16](#))

1. Alma gives a powerful discourse on the priesthood and foreordination. ([Alma 13](#))

After Alma taught Zeezrom and others in Ammonihah about the plan of redemption, he testified of the priesthood and the doctrine of foreordination. The priests of whom Alma spoke in this discourse were high priests in the Melchizedek Priesthood ([Alma 13:10](#)).

A. When are men first "called and prepared" to be ordained to the priesthood? (See [Alma 13:3](#).)

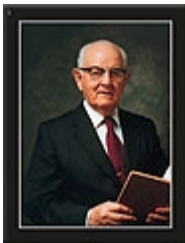
The Prophet Joseph Smith said, "Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was" (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 365).



B. How did men demonstrate in premortal life that they were worthy to be foreordained to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood? (See [Alma 13:3-5](#).) What must men do in this life to remain worthy of their foreordination? (See [Alma 13:8-10](#).)

C. How should Alma's teachings about foreordination affect the way we sustain those who are called to preside over us? How should these teachings affect our response when priesthood leaders extend callings or other assignments to us?

President Spencer W. Kimball taught: "Before we came here, faithful women were given certain assignments while faithful men were foreordained to certain priesthood tasks. While we do not now remember the particulars, this does not alter the glorious reality of what we once agreed to. You are accountable for those things which long ago were expected of you just as are those we sustain as prophets and apostles!" ("The Role of Righteous Women," *Ensign*, Nov. 1979, 102).



D. Alma said that men receive the Melchizedek Priesthood so they can "teach [God's] commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest" ([Alma 13:6](#); see also verse [Alma 13:1](#)). What opportunities do Melchizedek Priesthood holders have to teach? What does it mean to enter into the rest of the Lord? (See the quotation below.) Why do you think we need to

teach and learn the gospel in order to enter into the rest of the Lord?



Elder Bruce R. McConkie taught: “The rest of the Lord, where mortals are concerned, is to gain a perfect knowledge of the divinity of the great latter-day work. [President Joseph F. Smith said,] ‘It means entering into the knowledge and love of God, having faith in his purpose and in his plan, to such an extent that we know we are right, and that we are not hunting for something else; we are not disturbed by every wind of doctrine, or by the cunning and craftiness of men who lie in wait to deceive.’ It is ‘rest from the religious turmoil of the world; from the cry that is going forth, here and there—lo, here is Christ; lo, there is Christ.’ (*Gospel Doctrine*, 5th ed., pp. 58, 125-126.) The rest of the Lord, in eternity, is to inherit eternal life, to gain the fulness of the Lord’s glory (D. & C. 84:24.)” (*Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. [1966], 633).

- E. How do we become pure so we can be permitted to enter into the rest of the Lord? (See [Alma 13:11-12](#).) How must we live so we can be sanctified through the blood of the Lamb and by the Holy Ghost? (See [Alma 13:12-13](#), [Alma 13:16](#), [Alma 13:27-29](#); [3 Nephi 27:19-20](#).)

Let’s read [Alma 13:2](#), [Alma 13:16](#). These verses listed below show some ways in which the order of the priesthood can help us know how to look to the Savior for redemption. Give special notice to the words and phrases in italics.

- (1) [Alma 13:3-4](#). (Those foreordained to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood were “called and prepared ... on account of their exceeding *faith* and *good works*.”)
- (2) [Alma 13:6](#). (They were “ordained [foreordained] ... to teach [God’s] *commandments* unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest.”)
- (3) [Alma 13:8](#). (In this life, they are “ordained with a *holy ordinance*.”)
- (4) [Alma 13:10](#). (They show that they are worthy of their foreordination through continued *faith* and *good works* and through *repentance*.)

- F. How do faith and repentance help us look to Jesus Christ for redemption? How do good works and obedience to the commandments help us look to Him? How do priesthood ordinances help us look to Him?
- G. Alma spoke of Melchizedek as an example of a great high priest ([Alma 13:14-15](#)). What can we learn from Melchizedek’s example? (See [Alma 13:17-18](#); see also Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 14:25-40.)

- H. What can we learn from [Alma 13:27](#) about Alma's love for the people of Ammonihah?
- I. Let's read Alma's plea to the people as recorded in [Alma 13:27-29](#). Why is it important not to procrastinate repentance? (See [Alma 34:32-36](#).) What blessings will we receive as we "watch and pray continually"? (See [Alma 13:28](#).) How can we have "a hope that [we] shall receive eternal life"? (See [Alma 13:29](#); [Moroni 7:41](#).)

2. Alma, Amulek, and other believers are persecuted for their righteousness. ([Alma 14](#))

- A. Many people in Ammonihah believed Alma and Amulek's teachings and began to repent and search the scriptures ([Alma 14:1](#)). The majority of the people, however, became angry and persecuted Alma and Amulek ([Alma 14:2-5](#)). Why do some people become angry when they are called to repentance? (See [1 Nephi 16:1-3](#).)
- B. What did Zeezrom do when he saw what "he had caused among the people"? (See [Alma 14:6-7](#).) How did the people respond when Zeezrom confessed his guilt and defended Alma and Amulek? (See [Alma 14:7](#).)
- C. What did the wicked people in Ammonihah do to the people who believed in the word of God? (See [Alma 14:7-9](#).) Why did the Lord allow this to happen? (See [Alma 14:10-11](#); [Alma 60:13](#).) Why was it the will of the Lord that the lives of Alma and Amulek be spared? (See [Alma 14:12-13](#).)
- D. After being persecuted in prison for many days, how were Alma and Amulek finally delivered? (See [Alma 14:26-29](#); [Ether 12:12-13](#). They were given strength and power "according to their faith which was in Christ.") What are some things from which we need to be delivered? Why must our faith be centered in Christ to lead us to deliverance? (See [Mosiah 3:17](#); [Moroni 7:33](#).)

3. Zeezrom is healed and baptized. ([Alma 15](#))

After the Lord delivered them from prison, Alma and Amulek went to the land of Sidom. There they met the men who had been cast out of Ammonihah and stoned because of their belief in the word of God ([Alma 15:1](#); see also [Alma 14:7](#)). Zeezrom was one of these men ([Alma 15:3](#)).

- A. Zeezrom was suffering both spiritually and physically because of his wickedness, but "his heart began to take courage" when he heard that Alma and Amulek were in Sidom ([Alma 15:3-4](#)). What did he ask of Alma and Amulek? (See [Alma 15:5](#).) What does this reveal about his trust in them? In whom did he need to place his trust in order to be healed? (See [Alma 15:6-10](#).)

- B. What can we learn from Zeezrom’s actions after he was healed? (See [Alma 15:11-12](#).)
- C. Unlike the people who remained in Ammonihah, the people in Sidom believed the message taught by Alma and Amulek and were baptized ([Alma 15:12-15](#)). Alma saw that they “were checked as to the pride of their hearts” ([Alma 15:17](#); note that the word *check* means to slow or stop). What did the people do as they became more humble? (See [Alma 15:17](#).) Why is it necessary to humble ourselves before God in order to truly worship Him?
- D. What did Amulek give up by choosing to live the gospel and serve as a missionary? (See [Alma 15:16](#).) What did he gain? (See [Alma 8:30](#); [Alma 34:1](#), [Alma 34:8](#); [Ether 12:12-13](#).) What sacrifices have you made in choosing to live and teach the gospel? How have you been blessed for this?
- E. What did Alma do for Amulek once the Church was established in Sidom? (See [Alma 15:18](#).) What does this act reveal about Alma? In what ways can we administer to others and strengthen them in the Lord?

4. The words of Alma are fulfilled as the Lamanites destroy Ammonihah. ([Alma 16](#))

- A. About one year after Alma and Amulek preached in Ammonihah, the Lamanites invaded Nephite lands ([Alma 16:1-2](#)). What happened to the Nephites in Ammonihah? (See [Alma 16:2-3](#), [Alma 16:9-11](#).) How was this a fulfillment of Alma’s prophecies? (See [Alma 9:4-5](#), [Alma 9:12](#), [Alma 9:18](#).)
- B. Why were Zoram and his followers able to scatter the Lamanites and rescue their brethren who had been taken captive? (See [Alma 16:4-8](#).) What can we learn by comparing the destruction of Ammonihah to the success of Zoram’s armies? (Compare [Alma 9:1-8](#) and [Alma 15:15](#) with [Alma 16:4-6](#); see also [2 Nephi 4:34](#).)
- C. After the destruction of Ammonihah, the Lord prepared people’s hearts to receive the word preached by Alma, Amulek, and others who were chosen for the work ([Alma 16:13-21](#)). How does the Lord prepare people’s hearts to receive His word? (See [Alma 16:16](#).) How can we ensure that we preach the word of God “in its purity”? (See [Alma 16:21](#); see also [Mosiah 18:18-20](#); [D&C 52:9](#).)

[Matthew 11:28-30](#) and [Alma 13:27-29](#). In a world filled with doubt and confusion, it is comforting to know that through the priesthood we can “know in what manner to look forward to [the] Son for redemption” ([Alma 13:2](#)). As we look to the Lord, trust in Him, and follow the counsel of His prophets, we can enter into His rest.

5. “According to the foreknowledge of God” ([Alma 13:3](#))

To strengthen our understanding of foreordination, let’s read the following statement by President Ezra Taft Benson:



“God has held you in reserve to make your appearance in the final days before the second coming of the Lord. ... God has saved for the [final days] some of His strongest children, who will help bear off the kingdom triumphantly. That is where you come in, for you are the generation that must be prepared to meet your God. ...

“In all ages prophets have looked down through the corridors of time to our day. Billions of the deceased and those yet to be born have their eyes on us. Make no mistake about it—you are a marked generation. There has never been more expected of the faithful in such a short period of time than there is of us” (*The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson* [1988], 104-5).