

Three Brothers CFM

Come Follow Me February 28-March 6

Genesis 28-33

“Surely the Lord Is in This Place”

Hello/welcome members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, our names are Ammon, Topher, and Micah and we are “Three Brothers”, welcome to this week’s CFM discussion where we will give you our three favorite insights in under three minutes and then talk about them.

As always we provide all papers for free, follow the links provided to get both our “three insights” papers as well as our “weekly readings” papers totally for free. The three insights paper is what we will be going over in this video, whereas the “weekly readings” is a paper in which we combine this weeks “Come Follow Me” scriptures (which are the words in gold) with the church’s student manuals (which are the words in purple) with obviously the church’s Come Follow Me family program (which are the words in black) into one easy to read document.

Micah’s Insight #1

President Nelson committed the Saints in 2020 to do everything they could to strengthen their testimony of the Savior by deepening their understanding of the doctrine taught in the Lord’s true church (Preparing the World for the Second Coming)... More recently President Nelson expanded that commitment, including now three points:

1. Relentlessly seek truth
2. Make and keep covenants/pledges to God
3. Help gather Israel

(California Fireside)

Genesis 28; 29:1–18

I am promised the blessings of Abraham in the temple.

On his way to Haran to find a wife, Jacob dreamed of a ladder stretching from the earth to heaven, with God standing above it. In the dream, God renewed with Jacob the same covenants He had made with Abraham and Isaac (see [Genesis 28:10–17](#); see also [Genesis 12:2–3](#); [26:1–4](#)). President Marion G. Romney shared this thought about what the ladder could represent: “Jacob realized that the covenants he made with the Lord there were the rungs on the ladder that he himself would have to climb in order to obtain the promised blessings—blessings that would entitle him to enter heaven and associate with the Lord. ... Temples are to us all what Bethel was to Jacob” (“[Temples—The Gates to Heaven](#),” *Ensign*, Mar. 1971, 16).

Ideas for Family Scripture Study and Home Evening (CFM)

[Genesis 28–33](#)

You could use a ladder (or a picture of one) to talk about how our covenants are like a ladder. What covenants have we made, and how do they bring us closer to God? Family members might enjoy drawing Jacob’s dream, described in [Genesis 28:10–22](#).

(7-12) [Genesis 28:10–19](#). The Vision of Jacob’s Ladder at Bethel

“When Jacob traveled from Beersheba toward Haran, he had a dream in which he saw himself on the earth at the foot of a ladder that reached to heaven where the Lord stood above it. He beheld angels ascending and descending thereon, and Jacob realized that *the covenants* he made with the Lord there were the rungs on the ladder that he himself would have to climb in order to obtain the promised blessings—blessings that would entitle him to enter heaven and associate with the Lord.

Genesis 31:

44 Now therefore come thou, let us make a covenant, I and thou; and let it be for a witness between me and thee.

Doctrine and Covenants 136:

20 Seek ye; *and keep all your pledges one with another*; and covet not that which is thy brother’s.

21 Keep yourselves from evil to take the name of the Lord in vain, for I am the Lord your God, even the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob.

22 I am he who led the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; and my arm is stretched out in the last days, to save my people Israel.

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

Trust me. The key to this work is in keeping our covenants. In no other way can we claim and demonstrate the powers of godliness. You have the word of the Lord on that subject.

You will go to the temple to prepare you for your mission. Keep your covenants made there, every one of them. They are very personal, very sacred pledges each of us makes with our Father in Heaven. (A Message for Those Who Will Serve a Mission, 1997)

“When difficult things are asked of us, even things contrary to the longings of our heart, remember that the loyalty we pledge to the cause of Christ is to be the supreme devotion of our lives.” (The Greatest Possession, 2021)

In the kingdom of God, there can be no halfway measures, no starting and stopping, no turning back. The loyalty we pledge to the cause of Christ should be the supreme devotion of our lives. (Twitter post)

Ammon’s Insight #1

The Lord will lead us to our ‘Promised Land’

Jacob has dream and receives a Promise:

Genesis 28:12-15

12 And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.

13 And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: **the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed;**

14 And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and **in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.**

15 And, behold, **I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land;** for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.

Jacob has been given the same promise as his Grand Father and Father – Abraham and Isaac. He would inherit a ‘promised land’ and in him and his posterity would all the families on Earth be blessed. Jacob then immediately sought to make covenants with the Lord so that he could obtain these blessings.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie pointed out that when a person is “married in the temple for time and for all eternity, each worthy member of the Church enters personally into the same covenant the Lord made with Abraham. This is the occasion when the promises of eternal increase are made, and it is then specified that those who keep the covenant made there shall be inheritors of all the blessings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”
(A New Witness for the Articles of Faith, 508.)

According to Elder McConkie we can all enter the same covenants as Jacob and inherit the same blessings. So what do we know about the blessing of receiving an inheritance or 'promised land'? Was this only for the Lords people in ancient times? Let's see what Joseph Smith has taught about the blessings and inheritance we can receive:

"The Book of Mormon is a record of the forefathers of our western tribes of Indians; having been found through the ministration of an holy angel, and translated into our own language by the gift and power of God, after having been hid up in the earth for the last fourteen hundred years, containing the word of God which was delivered unto them. By it we learn that our **western tribes of Indians are descendants from that Joseph who was sold into Egypt**, and that the **land of America is a promised land unto them**, and unto it all the tribes of Israel will come, **with as many of the Gentiles as shall comply with the requisitions of the new covenant**. But the tribe of Judah will return to old Jerusalem. The city of Zion spoken of by David, in the one hundred and second Psalm, will be built upon the land of America, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads." (Isaiah 35:10); and then they will be delivered from the overflowing scourge that shall pass through the land. But Judah shall obtain deliverance at Jerusalem. See Joel 2:32; Isaiah 26:20 and 21; Jeremiah 31:12; Psalms 1:5; Ezekiel 34:11, 12 and 13. **These are testimonies that the Good Shepherd will put forth His own sheep, and lead them out from all nations where they have been scattered in a cloudy and dark day, to Zion, and to Jerusalem**; besides many more testimonies which might be brought."

(JS, Letter, Kirtland Township, OH, to Noah C. Saxton, Rochester, Monroe Co., NY, 4 Jan. 1833)

As many of us as are willing to comply with the requirements of the covenants in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will be lead away from their scattered locations and brought unto Zion, the New Jerusalem as their 'promised land'.

"Remember these things; call upon the Lord while He is near, and seek Him while He may be found, is the exhortation of your unworthy servant.

(Signed) JOSEPH SMITH, JUN."

(JS, Letter, Kirtland Township, OH, to Noah C. Saxton, Rochester, Monroe Co., NY, 4 Jan. 1833)

Topher's Insight #1

The simple covenant

In Genesis 28, Jacob stopped at a place on the way to Haran on his journey for a wife and slept there on a pillow made of stones and had a dream or vision of a ladder or stairs leading to God. In this vision God covenanted with Jacob (who is now the birthright son of Isaac) the same covenant as he did with Isaac his father and Abraham his grandfather. He covenanted to bless him with land and posterity just like his Isaac and Abraham.

President Marion G. Romney explained why this vision of heaven was shown in the form of a ladder and why the name of the place where it happened was called Bethel:

"When Jacob traveled from Beersheba toward Haran, he had a dream in which he saw himself on the earth at the foot of a ladder that reached to heaven where the Lord stood above it. He beheld angels ascending and descending thereon, and Jacob realized that the covenants he made with the Lord there were the rungs on the ladder that he himself would have to climb in order to obtain the promised

blessings—blessings that would entitle him to enter heaven and associate with the Lord.

“Because he had met the Lord and entered into covenants with him there, Jacob considered the site so sacred that he named the place Bethel, a contraction of Beth-Elohim, which means literally ‘the House of the Lord.’ He said of it: ‘... this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.’ (Gen. 28:17.)

“Jacob not only passed through the gate of heaven, but by living up to every covenant he also went all the way in. Of him and his forebears Abraham and Isaac, the Lord has said: ‘... because they did none other things than that which they were commanded, they have entered into their exaltation, according to the promises, and sit upon thrones, and are not angels but are gods.’ (D&C 132:37.)

“Temples are to us all what Bethel was to Jacob. Even more, they are also the gates to heaven for all of our unendowed kindred dead. We should all do our duty in bringing our loved ones through them.” (“Temples—The Gates to Heaven,” Ensign, Mar. 1971, p. 16.)

After this experience Jacob covenanted back with God and this is what the scriptures say he covenanted:

Genesis 28

20 And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on,

21 So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God:

22 And this stone, which I have set *for* a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.

So, Jacob acknowledged in his covenant with God that God will continue to be with him, to bless him, to provide for him temporally and to keep him safe physically. Then he dedicated a pillar of stones as “The House of the Lord” and then promised to give a tenth of everything back to the Lord. It almost sounds a bit like an endowment to me. There are a lot of similarities if you study it. As Marion G Romney said, “Temples are to us all what Bethel was to Jacob”.

It’s the simplicity of this covenant that Jacob makes back to the Lord that I want to focus on. We can simply remember ourselves that as the Lord blesses us with everything we have and need and provides for us and keeps us safe that we will go to his Temple or the “Gate of Heaven” to continue up those ladder rungs and also give him back a tenth of all the blessings that he has graciously blessed us with, and this will lead us to our exaltation along with our kindred dead.

Lastly maybe I don't have visions because my pillow is too soft? :P

Micah's Insight #2

GENESIS CHAPTER 31

4 And Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah to the field unto his flock,

5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me.

6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.

7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.

(7-20) Genesis 31:4 (Student Manual)

It is significant to note that Jacob counseled with his wives on the important move he was contemplating. Often modern scholars claim that woman in the Old Testament were of low status and were treated as property by their husbands. But this example, and others like it, show that such was not the case.

Boyd K. Packer:

In the home it is a partnership with husband and wife equally yoked together, sharing in decisions, always working together. While the husband, the father, has responsibility to provide worthy and inspired leadership, his wife is neither behind him nor ahead of him but at his side. (1998, The Relief Society)

"Revelation continues in the Church: the prophet receiving it for the Church; the president for his stake, his mission, or his quorum; the bishop for his ward; the father for his family; the individual for himself." ("We Believe All That God Has Revealed," Ensign, May 1974, 95.)

M. Russell Ballard:

For the past eight and one-half years I have served as a member of a council of twelve men. We come from different backgrounds, and we bring to the Council of the Twelve Apostles a diverse assortment of experiences in the Church and in the world. In our meetings, we do not just sit around and wait for President Howard W. Hunter to tell us what to do. We counsel openly with each other, and we listen to each other with profound respect for the abilities and experiences our brethren bring to the council. We discuss a wide variety of issues, from Church administration to world events, and we do so frankly and openly. Sometimes we discuss issues for weeks before reaching a decision. We do not always agree during our discussions. But once a decision is made, we are always both united and determined.

This is the miracle of Church councils: listening to each other and listening to the Spirit! When we support one another in Church councils, we begin to understand how God can take ordinary men and women and make of them extraordinary leaders. The best leaders are not those who work themselves to death trying to do everything single-handedly; the best leaders are those who follow God's plan and counsel with their councils.

Let us remember that the basic council of the Church is the family council. Fathers and mothers should apply diligently the principles I have discussed in their relationships with each other and with

their children. In doing so, our homes can become a heaven on earth. (1994 Counseling with Our Councils)

Ammon's Insight #2

We find Joy in loving Service.

Genesis 29:

18 And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter.

19 And Laban said, It is better that I give her to thee, than that I should give her to another man: abide with me.

20 And Jacob served seven years for Rachel; **and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her.**

We find Joy in loving Service.

“It is only when we love God and Christ with all of our hearts, souls, and minds that we are able to share this love with our neighbors through acts of kindness and service—the way that the Savior would love and serve all of us if He were among us today.

When this pure love of Christ—or charity—envelops us, we think, feel, and act more like Heavenly Father and Jesus would think, feel, and act. Our motivation and heartfelt desire are like unto that of the Savior. He shared this desire with His Apostles on the eve of His Crucifixion. He said:

“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you. ...

“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” (John 13:34–35).

The love the Savior described is an active love. It is not manifested through large and heroic deeds but rather through simple acts of kindness and service.”

(M. Russell Ballard – Finding Joy Through Loving Service)

Topher's Insight #2

Jacob and Laban are like a TV drama – “These are the days of Jacobs Lives” - Jacob is a man of integrity - Genesis 29-31

- Jacob kisses Laban's daughter and wants to marry her
- Offers to work 7 years for her which is a huge cost and dowry – Rachel must've been worth it. Side note – what is a good wife worth?
- Laban gives him the wrong wife deceitfully – Can you imagine Jacob's reaction when this was the case? 7 Years labour and he is deceived.
- Laban thankfully offers him Rachel after the 7 day wedding feast is over but only on the condition that he works another 7 years.
- Jacob is a man of integrity and agrees and takes her as his wife and works another 7 years even after being treated so deceitfully.
- His wives and their handmaids quarrel back and forth for years over the bearing of children almost to the point that Jacob is a pawn in a game of chess.
- Then Jacob wants to leave with his now massive family back to his home country and Laban doesn't want to let him go because having Jacob around obviously blessed him.
- They make an agreement where Jacob will keep the speckled cows, goats and sheep and Laban keeps the rest. Jacob knows its because of his righteousness that the Lord will bless him with a great flock in future because of this agreement.
- Jacob even got a little crafty and superstitious with the husbandry of the cattle which likely made no difference except it may have seemed so when in reality it was likely more the blessings of the Lord rather than his superstitious feeding methods.
- Jacobs flocks grew and Laban became jealous. This is what we would expect would happen when you have a man who is righteous on one hand and a deceptive man on the other. Surely the righteous man will be blessed.
- Jacobs says to his wives”
- **31:5 And said unto them, I see your father's countenance, that it is not toward me as before; but the God of my father hath been with me.**
- **6 And ye know that with all my power I have served your father.**
- **7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.**
- Jacob again confirms he served Laban with all his power and also confirms that the Lord had blessed him and confirmed it with a dream.
- They leave in secret to head back to Isaac and even Jacobs wives are angry at their father Laban for his treatment of Jacob AND them and the lack of inheritance he provided them.
- Keep in mind that he is possibly heading back home also to a brother who wants to kill him.
- Please read Genesis 31 and 32 for the stunning conclusion to this cliff-hanger episode.

I worked for a hard man, very closely for 6 years and to this day, myself and those who worked with me for this guy have like PTSD. I was always honest and worked with my best intention and was known to have integrity and the Lord always blessed me – so much so that this boss literally always said to me “How is it that everything always works out for you? You could fall off a building and land in a truck full of pillows” Or as my Dad says “your backside always lands in butter”. Even when bad things happened to me, things always turned out better than before – no doubt the Lord was blessing me because whilst I was honest and faithful at work for my employer no matter the hardness of the environment, I was also serving my Heavenly Father faithfully and the blessings were noticeable to my boss and others. Sometimes the Lord's blessings can cause jealousy in those around you and so humility and integrity are required to not only calm those around you but to ensure that the Lord will continue to bless you with more.

Micah's Insight #3

(7-16) Genesis 29:31. Did Jacob “Hate” Leah?

The Hebrew word *sahnay* does not mean “hate” as the term is used today, but rather conveys the idea of “loving less.” A better translation would be, “when the Lord saw that Leah was loved less or was not as favored,” he opened her womb.

Meaning, that when the Lord saw that Leah was not receiving blessings openly for obedience, the Lord rewarded Leah openly. This is an eternal principle:

Matthew 6:

1 Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise *ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven.*

2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, *They have their reward.*

3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth:

4 That thine alms may be in secret: and *thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.*

5 ¶ And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, *They have their reward.*

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy *Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.*

16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, *They have their reward.*

17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and *thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.*

Doctrine and Covenants 121:

34 Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?

35 Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men...

Those that do all they do to obtain the praise and honor of men receive the blessing of receiving that honor and praise of men, but in so doing they lose the richer blessings:

3 Nephi 24:

16 Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, and the Lord hearkened and heard; and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name.

17 And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Doctrine and Covenants 54

10 And again, be patient in tribulation until I come; and, behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me, and they who have sought me early shall find rest to their souls. Even so. Amen.

Ammon's Insight #3

God Keeps His Promises

Jacob sent for his brother Esau and heard he was coming to meet him with 400 men. He was afraid that after all he had been through, his brother might try and kill him and his family. He knew that the Lord had made promises to him that were yet to be fulfilled, so he cried out in prayer to Lord to deliver him:

Genesis 32

9 ¶ And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

10 I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands.

11 Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, and the mother with the children.

12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

He is pleading with the Lord to remember his covenant with him. Though he felt unworthy of all his blessings, he wanted the Lord to remember that he has not yet inherited his 'promised land' and would not be able to bless the families of the Earth if his family was killed.

Luckily for Jacob and ALL of us right through until this very day, the Lord keeps ALL of his promises. He keeps his word. We are the only variable in the covenant as Gods promises are sure.

Enos 1

6 And I, Enos, **knew that God could not lie**; wherefore, my guilt was swept away.

D&C 1:38

38 What I the Lord have spoken, I have spoken, and I excuse not myself; and though the heavens and the earth pass away, my word shall not pass away, but shall all be fulfilled, whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, it is the same.

Jacob then worked on a plan to ensure his safety and the Lord did protect him. How does this make you feel? Knowing that the Lord will keep his promises to you personally?

I was reading my patriarchal blessing today. I paid close attention to a section that asked something of me, then guaranteed me a blessing for doing it. I know the Lord will deal with me as he dealt with Jacob and my heart is filled with gratitude to know that his promised blessings will come to pass in my life.

Topher's Insight #3

Israel

Another quick breakdown of the story. Jacob is commanded to go to Laban for a Wife. He Obeys. He spends 20 years serving Laban, a deceitful master who changed his wages 10 times and all the while Jacob was a righteous and humble man. The Lord commands him to finally go to his home country - he obeys, and Laban pursues him. The Lord resolves this conflict but now he is heading home toward his brother who wants to kill him. What does Jacob do? He **perseveres** even at his own peril.

In Mahanaim, on the way back to his home country, Jacob was stressing about seeing his brother and he says this prayer in

Genesis 32:

9 ¶ And Jacob said, O ^aGod of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the LORD which saidst unto me, ^bReturn unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee:

10 ^II am not worthy of the least of all the ^bmercies, and of all the truth, which thou hast shewed unto thy servant...

11 ^{Deliver} me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau: for I fear him, lest he will come and smite me, *and* the mother with the children.

12 And thou saidst, I will surely do thee good, and make thy ^aseed as the ^bsand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude.

Jacob again shows his pure humility to the Lord and his willingness to obey even when it would appear by obeying it will lead to his destruction and also to the destruction of his whole family. But he knew that the Lord would keep his covenants so he "persevered". Notice that he prayed to the Lord in absolute humility and asked to be delivered from Esau but all the while making plans and preparations and gifts for his brother and constantly moving toward home in obedience, knowing that the Lord could and would keep his covenants and make it possible to obey.

Jacob has this wrestle or struggle with a "messenger" from the Lord and the record again is very sparse but it would appear it was some final proving test and after Jacob past, the Lord changes his name to Israel. Israel means "One who prevails with God" or "Let God prevail" or "One who perseveres with God".

We become "Israel" by covenant when we are baptized and live the Gospel. Are we really one who acknowledges that we are yet unworthy for the mercies and the truth which the Lord has blessed us with and therefore "One who prevails with God". When times are tough and obedience might appear contrary to sense and logic *cough*vaccine*cough* do we have the humility, integrity and fortitude to "Persevere with God" and what he asks us to do? Do we have the faith to keep moving in the direction that has been given, at all hazards and "Let God Prevail"?

Thank you for taking the time to listen to this today, we just feel so blessed to be alive in this day, the days in which the Lord will perform His most wonderful works, the days directly before the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior. We are "Zion or Bust!", or as President Taylor said "the Kingdom of God or nothing! We know The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the Lord's church and we are doing everything we can to prepare the world for the Savior's second coming! If you are interested in learning more, you can check us out on Discord or on Facebook, links always provided below.