

## Three Brothers CFM

Feb 7-13 2022

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. We hope you’ve read the scripture readings this week yourself already as this will not be an exhaustive review of the scriptures themselves but focusing more on the insights we gained from the scripture readings.

As always we provide all papers for free. Follow the links provided to get both our “three insights” paper 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 of course the Church’s Come Follow Me family program (which are the words in black) into one easy to read document.

### Ammon’s Insight #1

Insert Three brothers comment Joke

## This Video Is For You! | TWO BROTHERS



Finally the Truth • 4 months ago

Your show would be better, if you had three brothers.

Abraham is following the guidance of the Lord and is led down into Egypt.

Genesis 12:10-13

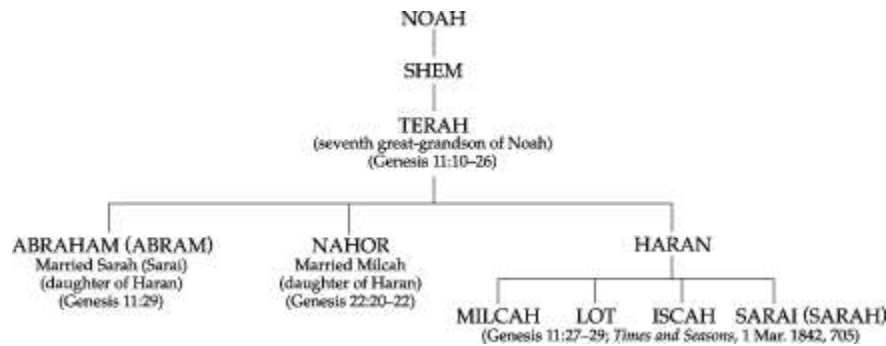
**10 ¶** And there was a “famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

**11** And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he “said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:

**12** Therefore it shall come to pass, **when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me,** but they will save thee alive.

**13** Say, I pray thee, thou art my “sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

Abraham could validly state that Sarah was his sister. In the Bible the Hebrew words *brother* and *sister* are often used for other blood relatives. (See Genesis 14:14, in which Lot, Abraham’s nephew, is called “his brother.”) Because Abraham and Haran, Sarah’s father, were brothers, Sarah was Abraham’s niece and thus could be called *sister*. The accompanying pedigree chart shows this relationship.



Another ancient custom that might shed light on the relationship permitted a woman to be adopted as a man’s sister upon their marriage to give her greater legal and social status (see *Encyclopaedia Judaica*, s.v. “Sarah,” 14:866).

Even though Abraham was correct in calling her his sister, he did deceive the Egyptians. How can this action be justified? The answer is very simple. His action was justified because God told him to do it (see Abraham 2:22–25). The Prophet Joseph Smith taught the following: “That which is wrong under one circumstance, may be, and often is, right under another.

“God said, ‘Thou shalt not kill;’ at another time He said, ‘Thou shalt utterly destroy.’ This is the principle on which the government of heaven is conducted—by revelation adapted to the circumstances in which the children of the kingdom are placed. Whatever God requires is right, no matter what it is, although we may not see the reason thereof till long after the events transpire.” (*Teachings*, p. 256.)

Since God is perfect and does not do anything that is not right (see Deuteronomy 32:4; 1 Samuel 15:29; Alma 7:20; D&C 3:2), Abraham’s act was not wrong.

**Do we see any parallels in our day? Are we being asked by the Lord to travel to our own ‘Egypt’s’ and to do things we wouldn’t normally be comfortable with simply because he asks it of us? IE Abiding by the laws of the land, following the Prophets counsel, paying tithing etc.**

### Topher’s Insight #1

#### Covenants

**Importance of covenants in bible times.** A mans word meant everything - “in the ancient world, covenants were also an important part of people’s interactions with each other. For their safety and survival, people needed to be able to trust each other, and covenants were a way to secure that trust.” (Thoughts to keep in mind – The Covenant). **A covenant was honored like the law and this might explain**

why there are stories in the Bible (Ananias and Sapphira – Acts 5 – They sold some land and laid the tithe at the Apostles feet but didn't pay a full tithe. When questioned if it was correct and they said yes they dropped dead – your word means everything) of people being struck dead for lying and therefore breaking covenants. The trust in society rested on them, and technically still does today although now we record things rather than trust someones word – although someones word still counts as a legally binding agreement it is easily refuted by the other party if they are willing to lie about it and to say it never happened – which is much more common today.

Keeping Covenants requires integrity, courage and faith.

Integrity – Joseph in Egypt – Potiphers wife – integrity – maintain trust - honest and upright – interpreting dreams – ruled all of Egypt

Integrity – Daniel - choice to stop praying to God or be cast into a den of lions, he chose the lions

The Covenant Abraham made was to bless him and ALL of his posterity - which is us, by blood or by also entering into the same covenant through baptism and the other ordinances required of us (including receiving the priesthood for males).

Why was Abraham so blessed with this Covenant and its associated blessings? Because of his willingness to serve and bless others with the priesthood. Therefore what do you think is required of us?

“What you choose to think and do when you are alone and you believe no one is watching is a strong measure of your virtue.” (Preach My Gospel)

### **Micah's Insight #1**

*Abraham wanted “to be a greater follower of righteousness” (Abraham 1:2), so God invited him into a covenant relationship. Abraham wasn't the first to have this desire, and he wasn't the first to receive a covenant. He sought for “the blessings of the fathers” (CFM)*

When Moroni visited Joseph Smith Jr he quoted the following scriptures “Behold, I will reveal unto you the Priesthood, by the hand of Elijah the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall *plant* in the hearts of the children *the promises* made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers. If it were not so, the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming. (JS-H 1: 38-39)

The true essence of the Power of Elijah is the planting of this desire for the promises made to our fathers to be realized also in us.

Doctrine and Covenants 113:

7 Questions by Elias Higbee: What is meant by the command in Isaiah, 52d chapter, 1st verse, which saith: Put on thy strength, O Zion—and what people had Isaiah reference to?

8 He had reference to those whom God should call in the last days, who should hold the power of priesthood to bring again Zion, and the redemption of Israel; and to put on her strength is to put on the authority of the priesthood, which she, Zion, has a right to by lineage; also to return to that power which she had lost.

9 What are we to understand by Zion loosing herself from the bands of her neck; 2d verse?

10 We are to understand that the scattered remnants are exhorted to return to the Lord from whence they have fallen; which if they do, the promise of the Lord is that he will speak to them, or give them revelation. The bands of her neck are the curses of God upon her, or the remnants of Israel in their scattered condition among the Gentiles.

We like Abram are scattered out of our “promised land”, and the Power of Elijah is what will plant in us the promises made to our fathers and will get us to wake up, to put on the strength of Zion and redeem her, and if we seek after these blessings like Abram did, the Lord will treat us exactly how he treated Abram, or as the CFM says “*anyone who, like Abraham, wants to be a greater follower of righteousness, anyone who seeks the Lord earnestly, can be a part of it.*”(CFM) Having such faith is known as “having faith as the Brother of Jared”.

### Ammon’s Insight #2

The Lord spoke to Abraham and made him a promise that he would have a Son (or an Heir). This must have sounded impossible to Abraham because his wife couldn’t bear Children... Then the Lord goes on to explain that not only will he have an heir, he will bless him with something much greater:

Genesis 15:5-6

**5** And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and “tell the <sup>b</sup>stars, if thou be able to <sup>c</sup>number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy <sup>d</sup>seed be.

**6** “And he <sup>b</sup>believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for <sup>c</sup>righteousness.

The Lord promises he would also bless him that his posterity would grow to such a great number he could not count them all! And what did Abraham do when these seemingly impossible promises were made to him? HE BELIEVED THE LORD!!!!

How did Abraham get to this point in his life? How can he get to the point where he can immediately believe the impossible? The experiences throughout his life had prepared him for that moment:

- He was saved from becoming a human sacrifice in his youth.
- He was led by the Lord away from a famine into Egypt.
- He was preserved in Egypt from being killed by Pharaoh.
- He was led back into Canaan to possess it as a land of Promise.

How can I apply this to my own life? Have I seen these spiritual foundational building blocks occur and I have I built myself of my ‘**Temple**’ on them?

- When I was 8 years old I was Baptised and felt pure and happy.
- When I was 17 I read the Book of Mormon for the first time and gained a testimony of the Prophet Joseph and the Restoration.
- When I was 20 I served a mission to a far away place to speak a language I knew I could only learn with the Lords help.
- I have seen my patriarchal blessing being fulfilled.

- I have received more joy and comfort in following the teachings in the Gospel
- I have been prompted to change my whole life and move across the country and then seen the Lord's blessings flow from that choice.

My foundation has become solid and immovable in Christ. Only now when the Lord asks the most seemingly impossible tasks from me, or promises the most incredible blessings am I ready to 'believe in the Lord' just like Father Abraham.

The Temple and Your Spiritual Foundation – Pres Russell M Nelson:

“Please believe me when I say that when your spiritual foundation is built solidly upon Jesus Christ, you have *no need to fear*. As you are true to your covenants made in the temple, you will be strengthened by His power. Then, when spiritual earthquakes occur, you will be able to stand *strong* because your spiritual foundation is solid and immovable...

So I ask each of you, how firm is *your* foundation? And what reinforcements to your testimony and understanding of the gospel are needed?”

## Topher's Insight #2

### The importance of the Priesthood as a blessing of the Covenant

He sought for “the blessings of the fathers” (Abraham 1:2 - 2 And, finding there was **greater happiness and peace and rest for me**, I sought for the **blessings of the fathers**, and the right whereunto I should be ordained to **administer** the same; having been myself a **follower of righteousness**, desiring also to be one who possessed **great knowledge**, and to be a **greater follower of righteousness, and to possess a greater knowledge**, and to be a father of many nations, a prince of peace, and desiring to receive instructions, and to keep the commandments of God, I became a rightful heir, a High Priest, holding the right belonging to the fathers.) —blessings that were offered by covenant to Adam and Eve and thereafter to those who sought these blessings diligently. **Its all about intention. Abraham saw himself as a follower of righteousness and as one who possessed great knowledge – but what did he do? He wanted to be a greater follower of righteousness and possess a greater knowledge. Is it ever therefore ok for us to relax and sit back and be content with what he have and what we know? Abraham knew about the ‘blessings of the fathers’ and wanted to be “ordained to ‘administer’ the same”. Meaning his intention from the start was to be able to bless others. How many of us truly have our baseline intention as a desire to administer to and bless others? I’d hazard a guess and say most of us are trying to bless ourselves, and think that just by receiving the Priesthood we have done enough. I know I don't do enough.**

### Abraham 1:2. Why Did Abraham Seek the Blessings of the Fathers?

**Elder Neal A. Maxwell** (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: “The true disciple has an inborn questioning to know, personally, all that God is willing to teach us. Nephi could have accepted gladly the vision of his father, Lehi. But Nephi ‘desired to know the things that [his] father had seen.’ (1 Nephi 11:1.) Abraham sought, even though he had a father who had turned from the faith, ‘for greater

happiness and peace' and 'for mine appointment unto the Priesthood.' (Abraham 1:2, 4.) Abraham described himself as desiring 'great knowledge, and to be a greater follower of righteousness' (Abraham 1:2), questing for the word of Christ. Divine discontent in the form of promptings can move us to feast because we know that by feasting we can increase our knowledge, effectiveness, and joy" (Wherefore, Ye Must Press Forward [1977], 119).

God's covenant with Abraham promised wonderful blessings: an inheritance of **land**, a large **posterity**, access to **priesthood ordinances**, and a name that would be honored for generations to come. But the focus of this covenant was not just on the blessings Abraham and his family would receive but also on the blessing they would be to the rest of God's children. "Thou shalt be a blessing," God declared, "and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:2–3) (Thoughts to keep in mind – The Covenant).

Did this covenant give Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants a **privileged status** among God's children? Only in the sense that it is a **privilege to bless others**. The family of Abraham were to "bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations," sharing "the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal" (**Abraham 2:9, 11**) (Thoughts to keep in mind – The Covenant). **So, Abraham sought for the blessings of the fathers, not for personal gain, because there is nothing to be gained financially and he was already a wealthy man. The only thing to gain is the opportunity to serve others by worthily holding and using the priesthood. So, it is a life of service and servitude with the blessing of receiving all the blessings that God promised with the covenant. It's a good reminder to think about what we desire and why... From CFM - What are your desires? Is there something you feel you should do to purify your desires? Zion?**

Another thought on why the Priesthood is so important and why Abraham desired it so much. The Priesthood provides the opportunity to experience the saving ordinances that we require to be "saved" and also the ordinances we require to be exalted. The Priesthood also provides the way for us to repent of our sins. So, if we want to stand clean before the Lord, we need access to Priesthood ordinances. How are we cleansed of our sins? Through Baptism and receiving the Gift of the Holy Ghost by one who has authority. After this how do we continue to repent? By partaking of the sacrament which is another Priesthood ordinance. Without access to the Priesthood, man is destined to wallow in a state permanently separated from God – think of the dark ages – what was missing? Priesthood. Abraham desired the Priesthood for this purpose! Knowing he could not bless himself! We can liken this to Joseph Smith – what did he desire? The truth. Once he found the truth he desired to share it and restore everything required to provide Salvation to his friends – again this revolved around the Priesthood and the ordinances it provides. Then to circle back – everyone who accepts these ordinances does so by COVENANT – therefore the importance of keeping your word.

### **Micah's Insight #2**

*Did this covenant give Abraham, Sarah, and their descendants a privileged status among God's children? **Only in the sense** that it is a **privilege to bless others**. The family of Abraham were to "bear this ministry and Priesthood unto all nations," sharing "the blessings of the Gospel, which are the blessings of salvation, even of life eternal" (Abraham 2:9, 11) ... when God blesses His people with His power, it is with the invitation **and expectation** that they will bless others—that they will "be a blessing" to "all the families of the earth" (Abraham 2:9, 11). (CFM)*

In Preach My Gospel chapter 1 we find the following quote from President George Albert Smith (1945–



1951) “We will attain our exaltation in the Celestial Kingdom **only on the condition that we share with our Father’s other children the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and observe the commandments that will enrich our lives here and hereafter**” (Sharing the Gospel with Others, 190).

In **Doctrine and Covenants 18** we read:

14 Wherefore, you are called to cry repentance unto this people.

15 And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

16 And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!

We are only truly blessed with the gospel of Jesus Christ as Latter-day Saints in this life when we “feed His sheep, feed His sheep, feed His sheep”... If we are not opening our mouths and sharing the Gospel we do not obtain this “privileged status among God’s children” as the CFM teaches us. The Lord clarifies this further in Doctrine and Covenants chapter 101:

12 And in that day **all who are found upon the watch-tower, or in other words, all mine Israel**, shall be saved.

To the Lord, in order to be “Israel”, one needs to be found on “the watch-tower”. We will get into what it means to be found on the watch-tower later in the year when we go over Ezekiel (specifically chapters 3 and 33)

### **Ammon’s Insight #3**

God’s plan for his Children is greater and more equitable than most of us realize.

Abraham 1:26-27:

**26 Pharaoh, being a righteous man**, established his kingdom and judged his people wisely and justly all his days, seeking earnestly to **imitate that “order** established by the fathers in the first generations, in the days of the first patriarchal reign, even in the reign of Adam, and also of Noah, his father, who blessed him with the ’blessings of the earth, and with the blessings of wisdom, but cursed him as pertaining to the Priesthood.

**27** Now, Pharaoh being of that lineage by which **he could not have the right of “Priesthood...”**

Pharaoh understood the order and of God and sought to rule righteously. It has been noted here that he was originally a good and righteous man and that he did all he could to imitate the things he believed to be true though he could not obtain the Priesthood at that time. I know that he didn’t live this way until the end of his life, but it did make me reflect on all the good people throughout time that have lived the best lives they could despite their circumstances.

This forced me to really expand my appreciation for the Plan of Salvation and how God will treat all those people. A few years ago my Grandma passed away. I spent a lot of time pondering over her life and the plan of salvation and how that might provide her with a way beyond the veil to receive and accept the Saviour Jesus Christ. I then started to think more broadly on the whole human family. There have been several billions of people that have lived and died on this Earth without the opportunity to hear about

Jesus Christ and accept him as their personal Saviour. In fact, I would estimate more than 95% of people that will ever walk this Earth will not have known or accepted the Saviour in their lifetime.

### 70 Billion People

Elder Neal A. Maxwell taught:

On the other side of the veil, there are perhaps seventy billion people. They need the same gospel, and releases occur here to aid the Lord's work there. Each release of a righteous individual from this life is also a call to new labors. Those who have true hope understand this. Therefore, though we miss the departed righteous so much here, hundreds may feel their touch there. One day, those hundreds will thank the bereaved for gracefully forgoing the extended association with choice individuals here, in order that they could help hundreds there. In Gods ecology, talent and love are never wasted. The hopeful understand this, too.<sup>[34]</sup>



Elder Neal A. Maxwell

Though we miss our departed friends and family, they are not lost to us. As our hearts turn to them and the promises made to Father Abraham, we can stand for them by proxy in Holy Temples as Saviours on Mount Zion so that they can choose to accept Jesus Christ and his Gospel and be together with us in the Eternities.

### Topher's Insight #3

What Abraham went through to obtain these blessings...

#### Abraham 1:4–6. The Courage of Abraham

President Joseph Fielding Smith (1876–1972) stated: “We all know something of the courage it takes for one to stand in opposition to united custom, and general belief. None of us likes to be ridiculed. Few are



able to withstand popular opinion even when they know it is wrong, and it is difficult to comprehend the magnificent courage displayed by Abraham in his profound obedience to Jehovah, in the midst of his surroundings. His moral courage, his implicit faith in God, his boldness in raising his voice in opposition to the prevailing wickedness, is almost beyond comparison” (The Way to Perfection [1946], 86). Its easy to do something when everyone is doing it. It takes a huge amount of courage, integrity and faith to stand against what everyone else is doing. Abraham’s example makes me think of the refiners fire and a precious metal being purified by intense heat until nothing remains but the pure metal that can be forged into whatever the maker desires. Or as Joseph Smith put it “I am like a huge, rough stone rolling down from a high mountain; and the only polishing I get is when some corner gets rubbed off by coming in contact with something else, striking with accelerated force against religious bigotry, ... Thus I will become a smooth and polished shaft in the quiver of the Almighty” (Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, p. 304).

Abraham was saved by the Lord AS he was being sacrificed! Why? Because he had already become the purified metal or the shaft in the Lords quiver. Not only did he stand against all the idolatry and unrighteousness he was even standing against (and preaching against!) his own father and chose to submit to his Heavenly Father instead. That’s a choice I’d really hope none of us would ever need to make and if we were in the same position could we reject what our father believed? I know I personally trust my father’s word over everything so it would obviously be very hard. But these hard choices purify us and make us worthy of these blessings like Abraham.

### **Micah’s Insight #3**

#### **Abraham 1:4–6. The Courage of Abraham**

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This reminded me of a few recent quotes from President Nelson that he gave: “The time is coming when those who do not obey the Lord will be separated from those who do (see Doctrine and Covenants 86:1–7). Our safest insurance is to continue to be worthy of admission to His holy house....Why do we need such resilient faith? Because difficult days are ahead. Rarely in the future will it be easy or popular to be a faithful Latter-day Saint. Each of us will be tested. The Apostle Paul warned that in the latter days, those who diligently follow the Lord “shall suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12) That very persecution can either crush you into silent weakness or motivate you to be more exemplary and courageous in your daily lives.... Do whatever it takes to strengthen your faith in Jesus Christ by increasing your understanding of the doctrine taught in His restored Church and by relentlessly seeking truth. Anchored in pure doctrine, you will be able to step forward with faith and dogged persistence and cheerfully do all that lies in your power to fulfill the purposes of the Lord. You will have days when you will be discouraged. So pray for courage not to give up! Sadly, some who you thought were your friends will betray you. And some things will simply seem unfair.” (Face the Future with Faith, The Future of the Church: Preparing the World for the Savior’s Second Coming)

If we want the blessings of Abraham, Jesus teaches us “If ye [are to be] Abraham’s children, ye [must] do the works of Abraham.” (John 8:39) He further clarified in

**Doctrine and Covenants 132:**

31 This *promise* is yours also, because ye are of Abraham, and the *promise* was made unto Abraham; and by this law is the continuation of the works of my Father, wherein he glorifieth himself.

32 Go ye, therefore, and *do the works of Abraham*; enter ye into my law and ye shall be saved.

33 But *if ye enter not into my law ye cannot receive the promise of my Father*, which he made unto Abraham.

We have to do the works of Abraham to receive the promises of our Fathers, the promises made to the House of Israel

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.