Three Brothers CFM

Come Follow Me March 21-27

**Exodus 1-6**

**“I Have Remembered My Covenant”**

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. Ashley has recorded the scriptures along with the CFM manual and the church study manuals into a YouTube video.

Micah’s Insight #1  
  
  
**(9-7)**[**Exodus 2:10**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/2.10?lang=eng#p10)**. What Training Did Moses Receive as a Youth in Egypt?**

As a prince, Moses may have had access to the royal libraries of the Egyptians as well as the scriptural record of the Israelites as taught by his mother. Quite possibly he read the prophecies of Joseph and was led by the Spirit to understand his divine appointment to deliver his brethren the Israelites. Stephen’s address implied that Moses understood his responsibility: “And when he was full forty years old, it came into his heart to visit his brethren the children of Israel. … For he supposed his brethren would have understood how that God by his hand would deliver them: ***but they understood not.”*** ([Acts 7:23, 25](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/acts/7.23,25?lang=eng#p23).) (emphasis added)  
  
**1 Nephi 14:**  
7 For the time cometh, saith the Lamb of God, that I will work a great and a marvelous work among the children of men; a work which shall be everlasting, either on the one hand or on the other—either to the convincing of them unto peace and life eternal, or unto the deliverance of them to the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds unto their being brought down into captivity, and also into destruction, both temporally and spiritually, according to the captivity of the devil, of which I have spoken.

8 And it came to pass that when the angel had spoken these words, he said unto me: Rememberest thou the covenants of the Father unto the house of Israel?   
  
**Luke 18**  
7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, who cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with men?

8 I tell you that he will come; and when he does come, he will avenge his saints speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?  
  
**1 Nephi 22:**  
11 Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel.

12 Wherefore, he will bring them again out of captivity, and they shall be gathered together to the lands of their inheritance; and they shall be brought out of obscurity and out of darkness; and they shall know that the Lord is their Savior and their Redeemer, the Mighty One of Israel.  
  
20 And the Lord will surely prepare a way for his people, unto the fulfilling of the words of Moses, which he spake, saying: A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that all those who will not hear that prophet shall be cut off from among the people.

21 And now I, Nephi, declare unto you, that this prophet of whom Moses spake was the Holy One of Israel; wherefore, he shall execute judgment in righteousness.  
  
24 And the time cometh speedily that the righteous must be led up as calves of the stall, and the Holy One of Israel must reign in dominion, and might, and power, and great glory.

25 And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture.  
  
The Lord will come, He will make bare His arm in the eyes of all nations, He will do all this and more... the real question is as it always is- when He comes, shall He find faith on the earth? Shall He find faith in His people? Or will He find His people as Moses found the people- “they understood not”...

# Ammon’s Insight #1

God will ‘do his own work’ through his righteous servants

Exodus 2:23-24

**24**And God [*a*heard](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/2?lang=eng#note24a) their groaning, and God remembered his [*b*covenant](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/2?lang=eng#note24b) with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

**25**And God looked upon the children of Israel, [*a*and](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/2?lang=eng#note25a) God had respect unto *them.*

Once God had looked upon the trials of his covenant people, he planned to deliver them. How did he do it?

**Exodus 3:8**

**And I am come**[***a*down**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note8a) to [*b*deliver](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note8b) them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land [*c*flowing](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note8c) with milk and honey; unto the place of the [*d*Canaanites](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note8d), and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

The Lord is telling Moses that he will ‘do his own work’ here. That he will come down to personally deliver his people. So does that mean that God himself will stand before Pharaoh and demand his people are freed? Or that he will personally raise his people onto a cloud and float them away from danger?

The Lord ‘does his own work’ through his righteous servants:

**Exodus 3:10**

Come now therefore, and **I will**[***a*send**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note10a)**thee** unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest [*b*bring forth](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note10b) my people the [*c*children of Israel](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note10c) [*d*out](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note10d) of Egypt.

When the Lord explains to us that he will do his own work, it means that his will shall be manifest through his servants. When people comment and say things like “I only answer to God and not man or any Prophet” they misunderstand that God’s directions are made manifest through his Prophet. When people say that President Nelson (or any other Prophet) has lost his way or does not have any influence over their direct relationship with God – They fail to understand that God works through President Nelson and by rejecting him, we are rejecting God himself.

"President Brigham Young revealed that on one occasion he was tempted to be critical of the Prophet Joseph Smith regarding a certain financial matter. He said that the feeling did not last for more than perhaps thirty seconds. That feeling, he said, caused him great sorrow in his heart. The lesson he gave to members of the church in his day may well be increased in significance today because the devil continues more active: **'I clearly saw and understood, by the spirit of revelation manifested to me, that if I was to harbour a thought in my heart that Joseph could be wrong in anything, I would begin to lose confidence in him, and that feeling would grow from step to step, and from one degree to another, until at last I would have the same lack of confidence in his being the mouthpiece for the Almighty.** I repented of my unbelief, and that too, very suddenly; I repented about as quickly as I committed the error. It was not for me to question whether Joseph was dictated by the Lord, and was doing the work of the Lord.' "

-**President Benson** (Valiant in the Testimony of Jesus: President Ezra Taft Benson, April 1982 General Conference)(JOD, 4:297)

# Topher’s Insight #1

We’ve come from stories of the individuals making these covenants with the Lord to an entire nation of people (Israelites) who have the same roller coaster ride of blessings and burdens that their ancestors did. The Lord now deals with them as one nation of people and gives them the same covenants and blessings as their ancestors if they’re faithful. Interestingly this is where we start to see the breakdown of faith in a group compared to an individual making the same covenants. Can they remember the Lord in their times of Trial like their ancestors did?

The Israelites were given Egypt as a blessing, and it had allowed them to prosper as the Lord promised but now it has become a curse and a burden to them.

The Bible Dictionary for the “Book of Exodus” says:

The book of Exodus thus gives the early history of the nation in three clearly marked stages: first, a nation enslaved; then a nation redeemed; lastly, a nation set apart and, through the blending of its religious and political life, consecrated to the service of God.

CFM Manual

[**Exodus 1–2**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng)

**Jesus Christ is my Deliverer.**

One of the central themes in the book of Exodus is that God has power to free His people from oppression. The enslavement of the Israelites as described in [Exodus 1](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng) could be seen as a symbol of the captivity we all face because of **sin and death** (see [2 Nephi 2:26–27](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/2.26-27?lang=eng#p26); [9:10](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/2-ne/9.10?lang=eng#p10); [Alma 36:28](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/alma/36.28?lang=eng#p28)). And Moses, the Israelites’ deliverer, can be seen as a type, or representation, of **Jesus Christ** (see [Deuteronomy 18:18–19](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/deut/18.18-19?lang=eng#p18); [1 Nephi 22:20–21](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/22.20-21?lang=eng#p20)). Read [Exodus 1–2](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng) with these comparisons in mind. You might notice, for example, that both Moses and Jesus were preserved from death as small children (see [Exodus 1:22](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1.22?lang=eng#p22)–[2:10](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/2.1-10?lang=eng#p1); [Matthew 2:13–16](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/matt/2.13-16?lang=eng#p13)) and that both spent time in the wilderness before beginning their ministry (see [Exodus 2:15–22](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/2.15-22?lang=eng#p15); [Matthew 4:1–2](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/matt/4.1-2?lang=eng#p1)).

This is such an awesome concept that I am not sure I have ever properly considered before. Not only is Moses a type of Christ but the entire Israelite Nation is a type of what we as God’s children go through in our journey of accepting the Gospel. We are all captives to sin and death. As we convert to the Gospel of Jesus Christ we are redeemed from this sin and death through Jesus Christ, and he delivers us from this bondage. We then make covenants with the Lord, and he promises us blessings and we become set apart and consecrated to the service of God as we push forward towards exaltation.

In Chapter 4 the Lord even tells Moses to say to Pharaoh “[*a*Israel](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/4?lang=eng#note22a) *is* my [*b*son](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/4?lang=eng#note22b), *even* my [*c*firstborn](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/4?lang=eng#note22c):”. Moses is to say this to the Pharaoh (whether it was this Pharaoh or his Father) who was responsible for the attempted deaths of countless children, that Israel is HIS firstborn child, his heir, and won’t be destroyed and in fact will be saved by Moses who is a type of Christ.

We are all Israel and Jesus Christ is our deliverer.

Micah’s Insight #2  
  
**(9-12)**[**Exodus 3:1–10**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3.1-10?lang=eng#p1)

The Joseph Smith Translation of [Exodus 3:2](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3.2?lang=eng#p2) reads, “And again the***presence*** of the Lord appeared unto him” (emphasis added).

**Doctrine and Covenants 103:**  
15 Behold, I say unto you, the redemption of Zion must needs come by power;

16 Therefore, I will raise up unto my people a man, who shall lead them like as Moses led the children of Israel.

17 For ye are the children of Israel, and of the seed of Abraham, and ye must needs be led out of bondage by power, and with a stretched-out arm.

18 And as your fathers were led at the first, even so shall the redemption of Zion be.

19 Therefore, let not your hearts faint, for I say not unto you as I said unto your fathers: Mine angel shall go up before you, but not my presence.

20 But I say unto you: Mine angels shall go up before you, and also my presence, and in time ye shall possess the goodly land.

21 Verily, verily I say unto you, that my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., is the man to whom I likened the servant to whom the Lord of the vineyard spake in the parable which I have given unto you.

22 Therefore let my servant Joseph Smith, Jun., say unto the strength of my house, my young men and the middle aged—Gather yourselves together unto the land of Zion, upon the land which I have bought with money that has been consecrated unto me.  
  
I think it is awesome, truly awesome, that Moses and this exodus was all a type for something that will play out in our future- a future in which Joseph Smith Jr. will lead us, the children of Israel in the redemption of Zion and the building of New Jerusalem. I also find it awesome, truly awesome, that with Moses the people never experienced the Lord’s presence personally only Moses did, the people only experienced the Lord’s power; while those of us alive today worthy enough to take part in these events, we will experience not only the Lord’s power, but His actual presence. Sometimes we gloss over these passages in the past, we become numb to the fact that these man actually experienced the Lord’s actual presence! Think of that! And then, think about what is promised to the Saints today- if they are worthy they too can and will experience the Lord’s actual presence as the Lord fulfills His promises unto the house of Israel! Don’t gloss over these experiences or cheapen them with vain figurative imaginings- these are real, these blessings are real and available to the faithful if they will but purify their lives and hold out faithful!

# Ammon’s Insight #2

Moses asked the Lord inspired questions. He asked “Who shall I say has sent me?” The Lord gave him keys and signs whereby the Israelites would know Moses was his servant. He was worried that he was slow of speech and it would cause the people to reject him and his mission.

When Moses revealed the will of the Lord to the people, what was their reaction? Did they accept him and his mission? Did they reject him?

Exodus 3:16

**Go, and gather the**[***a*elders**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note16a)**of Israel together, and say unto them**, The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely [*b*visited](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note16b) you, and *seen* that which is done to you in Egypt:

**17**And I have said, I will bring you up out of the [*a*affliction](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note17a) of [*b*Egypt](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note17b) unto the land of the [*c*Canaanites](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note17c)…

**18**And they shall [*a*hearken](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note18a) to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The Lord [*b*God](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3?lang=eng#note18b) of the Hebrews hath met with us…

Because the people accepted that Moses had been called of God and was the one that would work on his behalf to deliver them, the Lord was then able to show his mightiest wonders.

What would have happened if the people had chosen to reject Moses? What would have been the effect of unbelief?

TPJS 194 Joseph Smith Jnr:

“**If we keep the commandments of God, we should bring forth fruit** and be the friends of God, and know what our Lord did. “Some people say I am a fallen Prophet, because I do not bring forth more of the word of the Lord, Why do I not do it? Are we able to receive it? **No! Not one in this room.**

3 Nephi 19:35

35 And it came to pass that when Jesus had made an end of praying he came again to the disciples, and said unto them: So great faith have I never seen among all the Jews**; wherefore I could not show unto them so great miracles, because of their unbelief.**

The Lord cannot perform his mightiest wonders and miracles if his people live in a state of unbelief.

What will the lord do for covenant Israel in our time if we choose to follow his mouthpiece and not seek to diminish his calling or counsel.

1. “As you study your scriptures during the next six months, I encourage you to **make a list of all that the Lord has promised He will do for covenant Israel. I think you will be astounded**! Ponder these promises. Talk about them with your family and friends. Then live and watch for these promises to be fulfilled in your own life.” Pres Nelson – Let God Prevail
2. “Our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, will perform some of His mightiest works between now and when He comes again.”

Pres Nelson - Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives

If we expect Jesus Christ to perform his mightiest works and wonders in our day we have to be living in a state of belief. Belief that he can. Belief that he will. Belief in his servants, commandments and promises.

# Topher’s Insight #2

As we’ve discussed previously, the Lords faithful and chosen people prosper and Exodus 1:7 says

**7**¶ And the children of Israel were [*a*fruitful](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng#note7a), and [*b*increased](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng#note7b) abundantly, and multiplied, and [*c*waxed](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng#note7c) exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Along comes a new Pharaoh “which knew not Joseph” and he sees these people prospering and it concerns him.

**1:9**And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel *are* [*a*more](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng#note9a) and [*b*mightier](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng#note9b) than we:

**10**Come on, let us deal [*a*wisely](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng#note10a) with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there [*b*falleth out](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1?lang=eng#note10b) any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and *so* get them up out of the land.

**(9-4)**[**Exodus 1:15–22**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/1.15-22?lang=eng#p15)

The oppressive measures of the pharaoh were not able to thwart the purposes of God in creating a great nation. Through the courageous faith of the midwives and their refusal to carry out the pharaoh’s orders to execute the male children, Israel continued to prosper. The life of Moses, who was a similitude of the Savior (see [Moses 1:6](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp/moses/1.6?lang=eng#p6)), was threatened by the ruler of the land, just as the life of Christ was threatened by Herod, who decreed the death of the children of Bethlehem.

Both the ancient Jewish historian Josephus and Jonathan ben Uzziel, another ancient Jewish writer, recorded that the pharaoh had a dream wherein he was shown that a man soon to be born would deliver Israel from bondage, and this dream motivated the royal decree to drown the male children (see Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, bk. 2, chap. 9, par. 2; Clarke, Bible Commentary, 1:294).

The Wicked can’t stand to see good people doing good things. Like Tall Poppy Syndrome or the crabs in a bucket analogy. Do we personally do this to people in the church? Do we ever have jealousy or resentment toward others in Church or gossip about them? It’s something people do from School onwards – we bully the smart kid because it makes us feel better about being dumb. We bully the righteous person because it makes us feel better about being less righteous. It’s the same reason why the Church in general attracts so much negativity or why good people making and sharing good content attract hate. The wicked cannot stand it.

Now out in the real world - When the world comes crushing down on us due to our faith and convictions - how do we/ or will we react? Joseph in Egypt was the perfect example. The Israelites fortitude in the face of such a burden is also a good example – they weren’t perfect but they certainly knew how to persevere.

Is this a type and shadow or our day? As the world around us crumbles spiritually and chokes on its

own liberalism and we are happily living God’s commandments, will this be what turns the world

against us? The righteous always prosper and the wicked hate it and get jealous. Just because we are righteous doesn’t mean we are exempt from such burdens and the fortitude we show in the face of such trials is what proves to the Lord that we have the character required to be the jewels in his crown.

God’s people and Gods words always come to pass. A corrupt Pharaoh, King or modern-day Politician or Dictator cannot stop it. Our character and fortitude in keeping Gods commandments in the face of Oppression is what matters. We need to remember this as we move closer and closer to Zion and the events that will lead up to it.

Micah’s Insight #3  
  
**(9-18)**[**Exodus 4:29–31**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/4.29-31?lang=eng#p29)

What can be said of the people who had to be converted by signs (see [Matthew 12:38–39](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/matt/12.38-39?lang=eng#p38); [D&C 63:7–12](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/63.7-12?lang=eng#p7))? Although their initial reaction when they saw the signs was very positive, at the first indication of challenge and adversity their commitment began to waiver (see [Exodus 5:20–23](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/5.20-23?lang=eng#p20)).

**Parable of the Sower: On stony ground meaning:** (Luke 8:13, Mark 4:15, Matthew 13:19)

And they that received the seed into stony places, the same are they that heareth the word and readily with joy receiveth it, yet they have not root in themselves, and so endureth in belief but for a while; for when in a time of temptation or weakness, tribulation or persecution or affliction arise against them, because of the word or for the word’s sake, by and by they are offended and fall away.  
  
**Brigham Young**  
“Why do people apostatize? You know we are on the ‘Old Ship Zion.’ We are in the midst of the ocean. A storm comes on, and, as sailors say, she labors very hard. ‘I am not going to stay here,’ says one; ‘I don’t believe this is the “Ship Zion.”’ ‘But we are in the midst of the ocean.’ ‘I don’t care, I am not going to stay here.’ Off goes the coat, and he jumps overboard. Will he not be drowned? Yes. So with those who leave... It is the ‘Old Ship Zion.’ Let us stay in it.” (Discourses of Brigham Young [Deseret Book Co., 1943], pp. 82–83, 85)  
  
**Hugh Nibley**  
"...the Nephites had to work all the time to preserve the order -- eating, fasting, praying, and doing all the other things. They couldn't tolerate the righteous pace, so they were lifted up in pride, such things as wearing costly apparel and seeking the fine things of the world. "And from that time forth they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them. And they began to be divided into classes" (4 Nephi 1:25-26). They did not dwindle in unbelief but willfully rebelled against the gospel of Christ. They didn't just subside imperceptibly into a more relaxed way of life. Not at all. They didn't dwindle. "They did wilfully rebel against the gospel of Christ" (4 Nephi 1:38). Even as it was in the beginning, they went back to their old vices: "As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly" (Proverbs 26:11). They actually taught their children to hate the children of God, even as the Lamanites were taught to hate the children of Nephi from the beginning. “ (Approaching Zion Chapter 11)

# Ammon’s Insight #3

**(9-13)**[**Exodus 3:11–18**](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/ex/3.11-18?lang=eng#p11)**. What Is the Significance of the Title I Am?**

When the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush He used the name *I AM* to identify Himself as the God of Israel, the same God who had appeared to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Although this is the first time this name appears in the Bible, it is obvious that if the name had not been known to the Israelites, its value for identifying the Lord would have been useless. Correct identification was crucial to Moses in authenticating his call to the Israelites. This name does not appear frequently in the Bible; however, Jesus (the Jehovah of the Old Testament) used it on other occasions to identify Himself to Abraham (see [Abraham 1:16](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp/abr/1.16?lang=eng#p16)), to the Jews (see [John 8:58](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/john/8.58?lang=eng#p58)), and to modern Israel (see [D&C 29:1](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/dc-testament/dc/29.1?lang=eng#p1)).

Etymologically, the title *I AM* is directly related to the most frequently used name of deity in the Old Testament—*YHWH.* How often the name *YHWH* appears in the Bible may not always be evident in the King James Version, since the translators substituted the title LORD or GOD almost every place it appeared in the Hebrew. This practice shows deference to the reverential feelings of the Jews who never pronounced the name, substituting instead their word for *Lord—Adonai.* (Read [Genesis 18:1–3](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/gen/18.1-3?lang=eng#p1) where this distinction between Lord and LORD makes a significant difference in the interpretation. Also see [Reading A-2](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/old-testament-student-manual-genesis-2-samuel/enrichment-section-a-who-is-the-god-of-the-old-testament?lang=eng) for a full discussion of this subject.)

*I AM* is the first person singular form of the verb *to be.* Therefore, *YHWH* (which can also be the third person singular) would mean “HE IS” or “HE EXISTS.” The first or third person of the same verb was used by the Lord in the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, depending upon whether He wanted to emphasize His own or our own perspective.

# Topher’s Insight #3

(9-1) Introduction

The Lord’s concern for His chosen people can be seen in the call of Moses. So great was Moses that forever after the Lord and His people have used him as a standard, or model, of a prophet. Even Jesus Christ was called a prophet like unto Moses (see [Acts 3:22](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/acts/3.22?lang=eng#p22); [7:37](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/nt/acts/7.37?lang=eng#p37); [Deuteronomy 18:15, 18–19](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/deut/18.15,18-19?lang=eng#p15); [1 Nephi 22:20–21](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/22.20-21?lang=eng#p20); [3 Nephi 20:23–24](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/3-ne/20.23-24?lang=eng#p23)). Indeed, Moses was a similitude or living symbol of Jesus Christ (see [Moses 1:6](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/pgp/moses/1.6?lang=eng#p6)).

Moses was a man who, like us, possessed both weaknesses and strengths. The key to Moses’ character is his meekness, the capacity to be molded by the Lord and His Spirit. “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” ([Numbers 12:3](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/ot/num/12.3?lang=eng#p3)).

In this chapter you will learn of Moses’ foreordination, his youthful preparation, the patient tempering of his character in the desert, his call from God, and his assumption of prophetic leadership. Perhaps it will encourage you to analyze your life so that, like Moses, you can identify your weaknesses, purge yourself of them, and take up the assignment the Lord has for you in this life. Like Nephi, you may be led to say “let us be strong like unto Moses” ([1 Nephi 4:2](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bofm/1-ne/4.2?lang=eng#p2)). Elder Mark E. Petersen testified:

“The true Moses was one of the mightiest men of God in all time. …

“He walked and talked with God, received of divine glory while yet in mortality, was called a son of God, and was in the similitude of the Only Begotten.

“He saw the mysteries of the heavens and much of creation, and received laws from God beyond any other ancient man of whom we have record.” (Moses, p. 49.)

So, Moses is one of the greatest men who ever lived and to this day known as one of the greatest Prophets who ever lived and has been used as the Standard to measure against. What is interesting about these first few chapters in Exodus is how we can actually see his humanity and his weaknesses – he is actually quite a relatable man. On a side note, I find it interesting that the book of Genesis is attributed as one of the 5 Books of Moses and yet he hasn’t spared a lick of the negative things he said and did in the story – which is again why the stories in the Bible are so valuable and relatable – because they are written, warts and all.

So, it’s interesting that even with all the amazing experiences Moses went through with the Lord he still stumbled. He still had weaknesses. Something I might add that we do not allow our modern-day Prophets to have. I was going to read some of the passages from the scriptures but in the interest of time I’ll just explain. When the Lord was speaking with Moses from the burning bush and called him to his great work and told him to speak to Pharaoh, Moses says to the Lord that he is “slow of speech and of a slow tongue”. The Lord reassured him that HE would be his mouth and teach him what to say. Moses’ feelings of inadequacy were so strong that he insisted he needed help which angered the Lord. Then after speaking with Pharaoh, the Pharaoh increased the burdens on the Hebrews and Moses returned to the Lord and again basically complained that what he did, didn’t work and again questioned why the Lord would send him and complained that their burdens had increased. This is just a couple examples… He also didn’t circumcise his Son until the Lord forced him to and he also killed a guy….. lol

As the manual I just read said “The key to Moses’ character is his meekness, the capacity to be molded by the Lord and His Spirit.”

Why is Gold so valuable? One reason is because its attractive but its Gold’s other uses that actually make it valuable to humans. I want to quickly relate us as Gods children to Gold and what makes us valuable to God. Gold is called a Noble metal because of its predominantly indestructible nature and resilience. it is chemically inactive, meaning it is anti-corrosive and resistant enough to remain unchanged for thousands of years. It is ductile, meaning it can be stretched without breaking, and malleable to allow it to be spread lthin without cracking. It is also one of the best conductors of electricity which is why you see it used everywhere in computer parts.

We always use the analogy of purging metal in a furnace to remove the impurities. The benefit of studying Moses as the manual explained is that “Perhaps it will encourage you to analyze your life so that, like Moses, you can identify your weaknesses, purge yourself of them, and take up the assignment the Lord has for you in this life”. Moses had many weaknesses, but he continued to purge them and obey the Lord even when his personal feelings of inadequacy crept to the surface, and he even voiced these concerns to the Lord. His meekness – his ability to be moulded by the Lord – like Gold – malleable and ductile – allowed him to become the perfect tool in the Lords hands and just like Gold, allowed the spirit of the Lord to flow through him like electricity through Gold to affect the Pharaoh and others around him. His meekness allowed him to become one of the greatest men and Prophets who ever lived.

There’s so much to gain from Moses’ example. Sometimes the Lord might require something that seems beyond us and heck we might even complain a little, but the Lord will forgive again and again and continue to use us as a tool in his hands if we will but submit meekly and let him mould us into what he needs to be without breaking and without cracking.

Sorry, this has been long – last quick thought.

We have at least the 5 Books of Moses in the Bible AND the Book of Moses in the Pearl of Great Price. The shear amount of knowledge of God we have due to Moses is staggering and almost second to none. The reason I say almost second to none is because of what we have through our modern-day Moses – Joseph Smith. All the other important scripture we possess is from the Lord via Joseph Smith – who even gave us the Book of Moses from his translation of Genesis.

The Lord told Moses in Moses 1:41: “And in a day when the children of men shall esteem my words as naught and take many of them from the book which thou shalt write, behold, I will raise up another like unto thee; and they shall be had again among the children of men—among as many as shall believe.”

Moses was Gold. Joseph Smith was Gold. Are we Gold?

Bonus notes:

Moses an Israelite boy and foreordained Prophet ends up as the Grandson of the very Pharaoh that wanted all the Israelite boys killed…

How merciful is the Lord to Moses’ mother that he orchestrates it so that she can breastfeed and raise her literal son until he was weaned whilst also getting paid for it…

Joseph in Egypt Prophesied of two great future Prophets with extreme detail – Moses and Joseph Smith…

The Lord answers the prayers of his people in tribulation…

The circumcision of Gershom. The Lord gets people to live the commandments that have been given them no matter how trivial or even if later on they will be done away..

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. Share your insights with us!