Study Guide 11:

Unit 6: Additional Restoration Scripture

Abraham Chapters 1-3

Articles 6.2, 6.3

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Instructions: The purpose of the study guide is to direct your course of study of the Foundations of the Restoration, and assist you to focus on important salient points of your reading and study. The study guides are due on Learning Suite each class period by **8:59 am**. Your upload should only include the questions with your answers highlighted in yellow.

**Church History:**

**People (Go to JosephSmithPapers.org and search under Reference and People):**

**Places (Look at the Maps in your Scriptures):**

***This Study Guide is going to be a bit unique; your guided reading is not going to be through an article as much as it will be a note section for your scripture study. But first, to the Bible Dictionary!***

**6.2 Bible Dictionary: Abraham**

1. From the Bible Dictionary, we learn that Abraham was originally called “Abram” before receiving the new name “Abraham.” In the Old Testament, how is Abraham regarded?
   1. The founder of the covenant race
2. In Latter-day revelation from the Lord, what are **at least two things** we learned about the significance of Abraham and/or the Abrahamic Covenant?
   1. We learn that Abraham was blessed with revelation about the planetary system and the creation.
   2. Abraham also received revelation about the premortal life and the purpose of mortal life.

**Abraham 1**

1. Summarize verses 1-4. What is the main idea/what is happening? Choose something in particular that you learned or that stands out to you, and explain why you find it significant.
   1. Abraham grew up in the land of the Chaldeans but decided to obtain another place of residence. He sought for the Lord’s favor and kept the commandments. He became a high priest and desired the priesthood.
   2. I find it interesting that Abraham desired the priesthood so much. I remember when I turned 12 I though it was cool to get the priesthood but wasn’t dying to have it. It’s cool that Abraham was aware of the power of the priesthood and the blessings it can bring.
2. Summarize verses 5-19. What is the main idea/what is happening? Choose something in particular that you learned or that stands out to you, and explain why you find it significant.
   1. Abraham’s fathers had turned to idol worship and human sacrifice. They try to sacrifice Abraham on an alter. Abraham prays and the Lord sends an angel to save him. God promises to bless and lead Abraham.
   2. The main thing that stood out to me in this passage was the Lord’s mercy. Because Abraham was righteous, the Lord blessed and preserved him in his time of need. This is a significant lesson because it is evidence that God answers prayers to those who pray in faith.
3. Summarize verses 20-31. What is the main idea/what is happening? Choose something in particular that you learned or that stands out to you, and explain why you find it significant.
   1. The Lord smites those who worship false idols. The Egyptians came from the loins of ham, and pharaoh was a descendent, and a righteous leader. Abraham had received records of the creation and will give an account. A famine prevails in the land of Chaldea and Abraham’s father repents of his evil.
   2. I think its cool that it mentions that Abraham’s father repented of his evil. It shows that even an idol worshipper and one who attempts murder can turn their life around and there is no limit to God’s grace.

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**Abraham 2**

1. Summarize verses 1-13. What is the main idea/what is happening? Choose something in particular that you learned or that stands out to you, and explain why you find it significant.
   1. Abraham marries Sarai and is commanded by the Lord to leave the country and go to Canaan. He takes Lot and his wife with them. His father follows them to land they name Haran and turns back to his idolatry. The Lord then tells them to leave to another land and promises to bless Abraham with posterity and priesthood, and that through his seed all the world may be blessed.
   2. In this passage we learn that Abraham’s father turns back to his sinful ways. Even though God’s grace is limitless, this passage shows us that if we aren’t careful then it is easy to slip back into sin when life becomes prosperous.
2. Summarize verses 14-25. What is the main idea/what is happening? Choose something in particular that you learned or that stands out to you, and explain why you find it significant.
   1. Abraham and his people leave Haran to go to Canaan. Abraham makes an offering unto the Lord and prays for the famine to end. The Lord gives them a land to live in but the famine persists. Abraham and Sarai go to Egypt. The Lord tells Abraham to tell the Egyptians that she is his sister so they won’t kill him and take her.
   2. I found it interesting that the Lord tells Abraham to lie. This is a significant lesson because although the Lord has commandments to live by, sometimes we need to live by the spirit of the law rather than the letter and act in a way to preserve the greater good.

**Abraham 3**

1. Summarize verses 1-17. What is the main idea/what is happening? Choose something in particular that you learned or that stands out to you, and explain why you find it significant. **(I especially like verse 13-have you ever heard of this before?)**
   1. Abraham sees the stars and planets through the Urim and Thummim. The Lord teaches him about the planetary system and Kolob. There is a greater light to rule the day and a lesser light to rule the night. Abraham talks to the Lord face to face. Abraham’s seed will be as many as the grains of sand on the earth.
   2. I think its cool that the Lord is teaching Abraham about the planets and stars. This event makes Abraham the first astronomer. Kolob is the star closest to God and it is the greatest star. Even so, those who are closest to God are the greatest of all.
2. Summarize verses 18-28. What is the main idea/what is happening? Choose something in particular that you learned or that stands out to you, and explain why you find it significant.
   1. Intelligences are eternal, and some are greater than others by nature. God foreordained the noble and great intelligences to be rulers on earth. Abraham was one of these. Jesus was with the father from the beginning and created the earth as a place for us to go to be tested. If we keep our first, and second estates glory will be added on our heads. Satan rebelled when God chose Christ instead of him and brought others with him.
   2. I think this passage is significant because its one of the only places in scripture that so clearly outlines the purpose of life. It very simply says that our purpose in coming to earth is to be tested to see if we will keep God’s commandments. No where in the Bible does it state the purpose of life so clearly.

**6.3 Facsimiles**

**While examining the Facsimiles, it is important to notice that the text alongside them is not referred to as a “Translation” but an “Explanation.” This is a step further, because it is expounding/elaborating/explaining a translation.**

**One way Facsimiles may be looked upon is symbolically as follows: Facsimile 1 shows that Abraham overcame the tests and trials of earth life; Facsimile 2 shows that Abraham obtained the knowledge that would help him return to God’s presence and become like Him; and Facsimile 3 shows that Abraham entered the presence of God and obtained eternal life.**

**Upon looking at these Facsimiles for yourself and reading their explanations, explain your thoughts/insights below. What are some things that stood out to you?**

1. **Facsimile 1 Thoughts**:
   1. This is kind of a scary picture to look at because the priest is trying to kill Abraham. But I like it because that it shows that no matter what terrible situation we may find ourselves the Lord will be there with his angels to bear us up.
2. **Facsimile 2 Thoughts**:
   1. This picture is neat because its kind of complicated and there are so many little drawings that are crammed into it. It’s main focus is the power of God and how he created all things in heaven and earth. This art is an attempt to illustrate the mightiness and complexities of God.
3. **Facsimile 3 Thoughts**:
   1. This facsimile shows Abraham reasoning upon the principles of astronomy in the kings court. It shows that Abraham didn’t just keep his revelations from God to himself, but he shared them with others so that all could know the mysteries of God.
4. After this batch of readings, summarize how you are feeling about the Book of Abraham thus far. Confused? Bored? Excited to read more? (Chapters 4 and 5 are all about the Creation of the Earth and Adam and Eve!) What was your favorite part? We are just looking for honesty here ☺
   1. I know feel a lot more knowledgeable about the book of Abraham. I had never read the first three chapters before and I am excited to continue reading. My favorite was the chapter about the planets, stars, and the pre-earth life.