

1: Old Testament Lesson "Ye Shall Be a Peculiar Treasure unto Me" | LDS Living

As covenant children of Christ, His peculiar treasure, we must exercise diligence in our learning and faith. The Atonement is evidence of His love for us.

Preparation Prayerfully study the following scriptures: The children of Israel murmur because they are thirsty and hungry, and the Lord provides water, manna, and quail. Amalek comes to fight with Israel. Israel prevails while Moses holds up his hands, but Amalek prevails when Moses tires and lowers his hands. Moses receives stone tablets containing instructions from the Lord but breaks the tablets when he returns from Sinai and sees the people worshipping a golden calf. The people covenant to obey the law of Moses. Bring to class several books or other heavy objects if you use the object lesson on pages 64–65. Suggested Lesson Development

Attention Activity You may want to use the following activity or one of your own to begin the lesson. Imagine that you must make a journey into a wilderness where you have never been and that has not been mapped. How would you prepare for this journey? Answers may vary, but one helpful preparation would be to find a guide. What qualifications would you want in a guide who was leading you into a wilderness area? Answers may vary, but the guide should know the area and be trustworthy. Who was the guide for Moses and the children of Israel after they had fled Egypt and entered the wilderness? Point out that the experiences of the Israelites while journeying in the wilderness can teach us important lessons as we journey through mortality. One important lesson is that we can trust God to guide and care for us as he did the Israelites.

Scripture Discussion and Application As you teach the following scripture passages, discuss how they apply to daily life. Encourage class members to share experiences that relate to the scriptural principles. The Lord provides water, manna, and quail for the children of Israel. Teach and discuss Exodus. After the Israelites had passed through the Red Sea, the Lord instructed Moses to lead them to the promised land. Many of the people lacked faith, complaining to the Lord instead of turning to him. Nevertheless, the Lord provided water for their thirst and manna and quail for their hunger. What problem did the Israelites face in Exodus? How did Moses respond when the people murmured against him? He turned to the Lord for help. The Lord provided physical and spiritual water for the children of Israel. What is the spiritual water that flows from Christ? How can we drink that water? What is promised to those who drink that water? How did the Lord respond? It would show the Lord whether his people would obey him. Exodus. It would humble the people and help them receive salvation. Deuteronomy 8: How do you think sending manna helped accomplish each of these purposes? How does the Lord accomplish each of these purposes in our lives? How is manna a representation of Christ? The Israelites needed to gather manna every day to maintain physical strength. How can this be likened to what we must do to maintain spiritual strength? Just as we need daily nourishment to maintain physical strength, we also need daily nourishment to maintain spiritual strength. We cannot expect to be nourished spiritually if we study the scriptures and pray only occasionally. What usually happened when the Israelites kept the manna overnight? What happened when they kept manna overnight in preparation for the Sabbath? How can we apply this principle to our weekly preparation for the Sabbath? Point out that both of these accounts teach us the importance of supporting and sustaining Church leaders. The Amalekites warred with the children of Israel for many years, beginning in the time of Moses. When Aaron and Hur sustained Moses by holding up his arms, Israel prevailed in battle. What kinds of spiritual battles do we fight today? How does sustaining the prophet help us prevail in these battles? President Ezra Taft Benson said: As long as his arms were raised, Israel prevailed, but when they dropped from weariness, then the enemy prevailed. What concerned Jethro when he saw the people coming to Moses all day and evening? What did Jethro counsel Moses to do? What responsibilities of a prophet are mentioned in Exodus? You may want to have class members look for the responsibilities in these verses, then list the answers on the chalkboard. You may also want to use the following object lesson: Invite a class member to hold out his or her arms. Add another book or heavy object as each other responsibility is identified. Be a judge for the people. Exodus. Represent the people before God. Exodus. How can we hold up the hands and ease the burdens of our prophet and apostles today? As class members offer suggestions, take some of the books or other objects from the arms of the class member who is

holding them. How can we support and sustain our local Church leaders? Answers may include speaking well of them, serving diligently in our Church callings, and being good home teachers and visiting teachers. How have you been blessed as you have supported Church leaders? Teach and discuss Exodus 19” As part of this covenant he revealed the Ten Commandments to Moses. While the children of Israel were camped at Mount Sinai, what did the Lord promise if they would be obedient? How do these promises apply to us today? What experience did the Lord want his people to have at Mount Sinai? What did the Lord require his people to do before they could meet with him? Mount Sinai was a holy place where the Lord wanted to speak to his people and show himself to them. What holy places has he provided where we can receive these same blessings? The first four commandments in Exodus 20 teach the proper relationship between us and God Exodus How is the commandment to worship the Lord and to have no other gods before him relevant today? What false gods do some people worship today? Degrees and letters and titles can become idols. Whom do they worship? Certainly not the Lord of heaven and earth. Others have as their idols the games of sport, baseball, football, the bullfight, or golf. Why is it important that we not take his name in vain? Why is it important for us to keep the Sabbath day holy? How should we decide what activities are appropriate for the Sabbath? How have you been blessed as you have kept this day holy? Review the six commandments that concern our relationships with other people Exodus How does obeying these commandments improve our relationships with others? You may want to focus on individual commandments, defining what they mean and discussing them as appropriate. The Lord introduces the law of Moses. Teach and discuss Exodus 32” Because they forgot the Lord so quickly, he withdrew the Melchizedek Priesthood from them and revealed a lesser law”the law of Moses Joseph Smith Translation, Exodus The law of Moses did not replace the commandments, covenants, or principles of the gospel. Why did the Lord give the children of Israel the law of Moses? How would this law help make Israel holy and bring them to Christ? When was the law of Moses fulfilled? Now that the Lord no longer requires animal sacrifices, which were an important part of the law of Moses, what sacrifice does he ask us to make? What does it mean to offer a broken heart and a contrite spirit? In a sense, the sacrifice changed from the offering to the offerer. There they can meet with him, receive his laws, behold his glory, and go forth inspired to be more like him. Additional Teaching Ideas The following material supplements the suggested lesson outline. You may want to use one or more of these ideas as part of the lesson.

2: Exodus - `Now then, if you - Verse-by-Verse Commentary

*A Peculiar Treasure [Edna Ferber] on www.enganchecubano.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Sparkling with humor and insight, this brilliant autobiography, published in , reads as if it were written yesterday. Here is her dramatic story.*

That is why God said to Israel, you are to be my special treasure. Taking this thought a bit further, the concept of a treasure is one that yields great peace and calmness when viewed from a Biblical viewpoint. I see three things about a Special Treasure in this verse as it applies to Israel and to we who are called of God to follow Him today. First I see that this Treasure was a Peculiar treasure. It was unlike any other Treasure that God had-it was an entire nation. Treasures are usually called a treasure due to the fact that they are one of a kind or they are one of a very limited thing. There might be a monetary value to it but the owner would not take any amount of money for his Possession-it is beyond monetary value. Then for a treasure to be held in the Possession of the owner, it had to be Procured in some manner or other. Likewise, all who come to believe in Him are Procured through the shedding of the Blood of Christ. He has Procured us, He has Purchased us by His death. The first Precaution I note is that all treasures have to be Protected. If the item is priceless-it has to have Protection from any one who would attempt to steal it. He brought it out of Egypt; He gave it Protection from the Egyptians; He gave it Protection from the heat of the day, and from the cool of the evening. He also Protected it from dying of hunger by giving it food; He Protected it from dying of thirst by giving it water; He Protected it from annihilation by defeating the Amalikites and now He is Protecting it for Himself from all those who would snatch it from His hand. We are His Peculiar treasure and He takes great pains to protect His treasure. If the item does not need to be Polished, it still needs to be cleaned and made presentable for its continued value sake. Other times He Polishes us by blessings-undeserved blessings. Some times the method God uses can be harsh, but He needs to rub and to cleanse away the dirt of the world and make us a fit vessel for His House. Likewise, another valuable part of the Precaution of a valued treasure is that it has to be Presentable for certain situations. What good is a treasure if it is always hidden? Such was the case here. God still does the same with his Church.

3: Psalm For the LORD has chosen Jacob as His own, Israel as His treasured possession.

A Peculiar Treasure has 38 ratings and 6 reviews. Kathryn said: So this book took me a little while to get through. It is fairly long. I enjoyed it immen.

Feb 05, Kathryn M rated it really liked it So this book took me a little while to get through. It is fairly long. I enjoyed it immensely but at the same time it did seem to ramble on at times. I also found myself asking questions that she never seemed to answer. She was thorough about her life but at the same time not really. I did find her commentary on life and the world and history very interesting. However, I finished the book wanting to know more facts about her life, not just her insight. I really love this author and have read eve So this book took me a little while to get through. I really love this author and have read everything of hers I can find. So if you feel the same, then this is worth the read. Edna grew up in the late s in little towns in middle America, often the only Jewish family in the area. That alone was hard. Always interesting to me to hear what people remember about their beginnings. SHE was a woman of the times, beginning to just break out of the old female roles. At 17 she wanted to be a newspaper reporter. With malice, they assigned her to cover the night court proceedings. A virginal, sheltered girl with a big ribbon in her hair, heard about prostit I loved this book. A virginal, sheltered girl with a big ribbon in her hair, heard about prostitution, rape, drugs and other violence. She learned and stood up to it. She kept working and then became a writer. I love her descriptions about how she wrote a book. A phrase or even a word would set off a bell in her head and she knew what she had to write about next. This book was published in and there is a painful little riff running through the book about the horror of Hitler and the antisemitism of Germany at that time. She wrote the story on which the musical Showboat was based. Ferber is largely forgotten these days, but some years ago, my mother mentioned this memoir as particularly influential to her, and I can understand why: An aspect of Ferber that is less apparent in her novels is her Jewish heritage; writing here, A charming autobiography by the critically and popularly successful author of So Big and Show Boat and playwriting collaborator of George S. An aspect of Ferber that is less apparent in her novels is her Jewish heritage; writing here, in , she is forthright in her defense of Jews already subject to six years of oppression in German Europe.

4: A Peculiar Treasure by Edna Ferber | www.enganchecubano.com

Purpose. To encourage class members to partake of the Lord's spiritual water and bread, sustain his chosen leaders, and obey his commandments so he can make of them a "holy nation" (Exodus).

The above verses have been used by countless preachers to condemn hapless souls to an everlasting damnation. No doubt, things will not be pleasant for the ones who put Christ to an open shame, and rightly so, for it is a terrible thing to do. And it is almost inconceivable to think that someone could fall away after they had been enlightened by the illumination of anointed revelation. The heavenly gift the Holy Spirit that they tasted but rejected, of course, is the Lord Jesus. The heavenly Gift these people reject is not the gifts of the Spirit, but the Gift Himself. They also count His Word as nothing, the very thing by which they were born. And it is familiar in the sense of rebellious teens who count their mothers and fathers, and everything they have ever been taught, as nothing. They put their family name on open display, and by their actions declare that it is all worthless. They seem to have no thought or feeling that it brings shame to every member of the family, especially to the parents who had sacrificed their lives for them. How can those who bring such shame to the ones who died, sacrificed everything for them, for them be renewed by a mere repentance? Much fire is in store for them before repentance comes. And how can those who bring such shame to Jesus be renewed by mere repentance? Is this to say that once a person has brought shame to the family or to the Lord that they can never be brought back into good standing and honor with either? It is saying no such thing. Repentance may eventually come; but that alone, without a change of heart, will not renew the relationship. They must first be broken, as was the prodigal son. Many bitter tears will be shed as they pass through the fires they ignite in their own lives. Poverty of their souls will purge them from self-centeredness, causing them to truly desire that which they had once disdained -- their first estate. Many of our modern Bible translators rendered the chains that hold such people under darkness as everlasting and the fire of which they await as eternal. But this is not close to being the end of the matter. Everlasting chains under darkness are chains that cannot be broken. They endure, they hold firmly, they last until the time of judgment. These chains are the very darkness men and women give themselves to in place of the light of Jesus Christ. This is not someone who hates the flesh and its lusts, but give themselves to it. Such people willingly trade the power of the ages for the power of their own carnal might. It is rebellion; it is an insurrection against the King. And that to which they give themselves, the carnal chains of darkness, will hold them in that realm until they are judged. Such people will continue in their own dark ministries. They will have certain powers over followers of men. They will build their kingdoms in the "name" of Christ; yet they will all fall in the presence of the One they had disallowed. Once such contempt for the One who birthed them and died for them is broadcast in the world, and once they have built a tower and made a name for themselves. But after all the precious things of Christ are tasted, even the powers of the age to come, and they are counted as worthless, it is a different story. In the beginning when the Holy Spirit was drawing us to Jesus, it was so easy. But when we wipe our feet on His precious garments, we cannot expect repentance to be the open door back to the rich fellowship we so openly rejected. Ah, but there is a way our loving Father has provided that none shall be lost. It is called FIRE! Where repentance is no longer viable -- fire is. If a person who loved the world more than the riches of Christ, and all he had to do was to "repent" in order to return to the fold of fellowship and communion with the Lord, what a mockery it would be. People would use it like a revolving door in a department store. They would be in the world one day and in Christ the next. They would use each to their own design and purpose. There would be a continual vacillating between the Spirit and the flesh. Victory would never be known in their lives. Oh, but the purging fires of God will consume the adversaries, every adverse particle to Christ, and restoration can then be known. Those fires of indignation may come inwardly in the form of awful depression, fear, anguish, or a number of other tormenting things. They can also come outwardly as the result of sowing seeds to the wind and reaping the whirlwind. The universal law of sowing and reaping may be disavowed, but they cannot be avoided. There will be a day of reaping of every seed sown, whether good or bad. When the reaping is the whirlwind, and when it is time for God to draw a soul back into Himself, he will be swept away in judgment by the very

things for which they lived. This is a part of the restoration process. Let us lend our attention to another area of scripture that has been used to condemn poor souls to an everlasting damnation: As it was with repentance, so it is with the sacrifice -- there is no more. It is wayward to think that after a person willfully sins, he can nail Jesus to cross again and shed more blood to atone his sin. Our Father will never again subject His beloved Son to the shame of that cross. This, however, in no way suggests the person is forever cut off from God. Although the sacrifice is history for that individual, and repentance is also gone, the refining Fire of God is a present reality. The flames of judgment will devour every wicked way, and put to rest any desire that would rise in open rebellion. There will be great loss, this is sure, but the man will be brought back as his soul is salted with fire, as Jesus promised would happen to everyone Mark 9: The great loss, of course, would be spiritual loss; such as the Pharisees who were guilty of blaspheming against the Holy Spirit: And whoever may speak a word against the Son of Man it shall be forgiven to him, but whoever may speak against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age, nor in that which is coming. One of their great losses was being disqualified from being a part of the ruling factor in the Kingdom of God in the age to come which was after Jesus was crucified, resurrected, and ascended. That was the beginning of the Kingdom with His many membered body; but since the rulers blasphemed against the Holy Spirit, they were not forgiven and delivered from their rebellion, so their great loss was to miss out on such a wonderful thing as living in Christ and ruling with Him. And Paul mentioned something that I believe would be a great loss; namely, to be found spiritually naked: Do you want to be a peculiar person? If so, never disallow the living Stone. You may think such a thing is impossible; but there are ample numbers, multitudes for that matter, who confess Jesus as their Lord, while disallowing the living Stone in their lives. And they never give it a second thought that they have done so. They profess His name, but their profession is more in the world than in the Kingdom of God. They work the works of man and not the works of Christ. Paul said this about them: This is a strong indictment against people who profess Jesus, but in their works they deny Him by doing their own religious thing. However, this is not the make up of those who are peculiar. Praise God, for "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood Ye are a chosen generation, a 8 royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" 1 Pet 2: You see, we can never work hard enough or long enough in our natural might to show forth the wonders of God; for not only is it impossible for flesh and blood to inherit the Kingdom of God, it is impossible for either to do the works of the Kingdom. We ourselves are a spiritual work. We are His handiwork who are called to good works. We are lively stones having been made alive by Him who is life. The priesthood does not consist of men who are set in positions by other men. This priesthood is royal, it is kingly, it is ordained by the King Himself. The royal priesthood is after the order of Melchisedec who has no beginning or ending, and who by nature fulfills the law of God. The people of this generation are the elect. They make up a holy nation, a race that is dreadfully majestic. They are sacred, blameless and consecrated unto God. There are some, however, who question where they are in Christ. Their fear of not being manifested with the rest of the body keeps them searching, ever searching for the latest and greatest revelation and teaching. This is well and good; for I too want that which is great from God, and I desire the most recent, up-to-date, anointed doctrines the Spirit is pouring into His people. But this is not the case with many. Even so, it does not stop them from worrying whether they are spiritual enough, or even smart enough, to be numbered among the sons of God. The fact is, most of them are overly concerned, which is their greatest handicap. Not only are they hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord, they are also keeping His covenant. They may not always hear; but when they do, their obedience is unquestionable. And they are to be commended for keeping His covenant. This covenant, of course, is not the law of Moses. The old covenant testament was instituted by God and it was between Himself and Abram. It was initiated when He passed through the carcasses that were cut in half by Abram. When the shed blood of Jesus is drank, when His torn flesh is eaten, and when it is esteemed as good -- then I will declare with all confidence -- you are keeping His covenant. Therefore, whether you can quote one scripture, whether you can teach or preach two minutes worth of Kingdom truth, or whether you have any fellowship with like minded saints -- if you are hearing and obeying, and you are keeping His covenant -- you are peculiar. You qualify, which makes you a rare treasure of high value which was purchased by a great

price.

5: Robin Jones Gunn » Blog Archive Spoken For: You are a Peculiar Treasure - Robin Jones Gunn

Welcome to Bible Baptist Church of Hixson, TN. Dr. J. Michael Bates preached the sermon 'A Peculiar Treasure' the morning of October 28,

This lesson will not follow precisely the format of the lesson in the manual for Gospel Doctrine. Please do not teach this lesson at the expense of that one. The manual provided by the Church is your main and most important non-scriptural resource. This lesson is clearly of lesser value and inspiration, but I hope it will help you in understanding what happened to Israel in the wilderness and at Mount Sinai. Introduction One of the things the Children of Israel needed to learn was trust in the Lord. In Proverbs we read: The older Alma taught: The story that follows, given by Elder McKay in , illustrates how important it is to find those you know you know you can trust. To reach it they would have to retrace their steps and go back ten miles to come up from the valley below. Someone suggested that if they had a rope they could let a boy down to pick the specimens. That suggestion was prompted by the fact that a little boy had been following them for about an hour, watching them silently. They thought they had frightened him. He went to a house nearby and soon came back with a man by his side. Then the little fellow answered: McKay, Conference Report, Apr. Exodus 14 We discussed this event in lesson Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? The sea was divided and the Egyptian Army destroyed. Trust me to protect you. I will help you meet your legitimate needs. It had to be gathered every day. It could not be stored except for the Sabbath. Trust me every day. Feast on my word every day. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? Instead of showing Israel a tree or an oasis, the Lord commanded Moses to bring water from solid rock! Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. The Amalekites attack Exodus Israel prevails when Moses holds up the rod and they falter when he does not. Trust and sustain my leaders. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: And let them judge the people at all seasons: The passages in Exodus 18 mentioned above, in which Jethro teaches Moses about delegation, contain an interesting description of what Prophets are supposed to do. He instructed Moses to prepare the people to meet with him, and then said: The scriptural account is pretty clear that it did not happen in just that way. Note the promise God made in Exodus When the Lord had finished giving the instructions in these chapters, the people made a covenant: A few verses later they said again: Some of the Israelites actually did see God. And they saw the God of Israel: And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: It was after all of this that Moses went into the mount and received the tables of stone with these laws written on them see Exodus There are still a great many who accept and attempt to abide by the Ten Commandments, but there are a great many who do not. We live in a day when commandments are not generally well-received. The US News article cited above suggests that people might be more receptive to these 10 original commandments if the negative and bossy language were removed and if a few creative loopholes were added. Thou shalt not steal, but creative work with your tax return is OK. Thou shalt not kill, except during any of the trimesters or if the Pentagon says you must. You get the idea. We as members of the Church of Jesus Christ have once again, almost by default, become the custodians of something sacred. We are the proponents and messengers of the Mt. We must declare by word and by example that these commandments are still in force and that there are divine, often eternal, penalties attached to the breaking of them. DeMille stated, after exhaustive research for the epic motion picture The Ten Commandments: We can only break ourselves against them. Cited by Thomas S. I wish this part of lesson 14 were its own lesson. There are some wonderful insights for teaching to be found in these commandments, but, as I lack the time and the 10 are not a separate lesson, I will go on. By their disobedience to the promises they themselves had made in Exodus The first cataclysmic revolution took place while Moses was on the Mount. While he was there, terrible things happened in the camp below. What might he have been thinking? Clearly,

no one in our day would ever give up on a promise from God just because it came later than expected, would they? No one would marry out of the covenant because a worthy spouse did not show up soon enough, would they? No one would place personal integrity on the altar of profit because business success was too long in coming, would they? No one would postpone missionary opportunities because people willing to listen were slow in appearing, would they? No one would misuse their procreative powers because waiting for the right time and place to marry would take too long, would they? No one would quit praying for a needed blessing because it did not come at the moment they wanted it, would they? When the worshiping of the golden calf started, God told Moses to get down to the camp Exodus Notice what Moses did when he saw his people worshiping a graven image. It was under these circumstances that Israel received the Law of Moses. It was not designed to replace the gospel laws they had already received. Notice the language of the JST regarding the new tablets of stone given later to Moses. But I will give unto them the law as at the first, but it shall be after the law of a carnal commandment; for I have sworn in my wrath, that they shall not enter into my presence, into my rest, in the days of their pilgrimage. Conclusion I wrote a book entitled This Life is a Test. In the book, I discussed several rules for understanding, taking, and passing the Test of Life. Thinking of it reminded me of a personal experience when I made things much harder than they needed to be. My wife and I had made plans to attend a movie and if I did not move quickly, we would certainly be late. I had barely enough time to wash the car and then pick up the babysitter. The children were in the car with me: Chris who was three and Debbie, who was nearly two. Since the sitter was a young lady they did not know, I thought I might facilitate the getting-acquainted process by having the three of them in the car while I drove home. By the time the door thumped home, I knew I had made a mistake. The keys were still in the ignition. The children were still in the car. But his little three-year-old fingers could not generate enough friction to pull the knob up. The newness of the car and the smoothness of the plastic defeated him. Nor could he open the doors. They needed to be unlocked manually first. I needed to get inside the vehicle and go get the babysitter. I knew that with a wire coat hanger, I might have some chance. But where would I find a coat hanger at a car wash? Without much hope, I walked to a nearby garbage can and began to examine the contents. To my astonishment I found not one but two hangers, discarded there, I was certain, by some inspired car-washer earlier in the day. Fashioning the hanger into a useful tool took some time. Then, using all my creativity, I forced the wire around the plastic molding of the door and into the passenger compartment. Finding a spot around the door where this could be done consumed more time. Then I discovered that I could not get the loop over the knob without help. But finally I made Chris understand what I needed and he moved the wire to the correct spot.

6: A Peculiar Treasure: The Blessings and Responsibilities of a Covenant People | Devotional

Now through Thursday, December 12, , you can get 35% off your entire Old Navy online purchase when you use the coupon code GIFTS at checkout.

It is wonderful to see your bright countenances and the gospel light that enervates your souls. As I look into your faces today, the brightness and freshness reflects your association with the Holy Spirit and the principles by which you live. The light emanating from you is reminiscent of the experiences Sister Bateman and I had in Japan and Korea during “ Shortly after our arrival in Japan, we attended a district conference in northern Honshu. Arrangements were made before the trip for a member of the district presidency, a brother we did not know, to meet us at the train station. As the bullet train sped from Tokyo to Morioka, I wondered how we would recognize the Japanese brother. The train station would be a beehive of activity. It would be easier for him to recognize us than the reverse, but there would be hundreds of people exiting the train. Stepping from the train car onto the platform, I looked into a sea of Japanese faces wondering which one was there to greet us. As we gazed along the platform, I could see an individual at the far end whose countenance radiated the light of the gospel. He was checking each car as he passed along the platform. As we moved toward him, he recognized us, and a peaceful feeling entered our souls. That experience was repeated almost weekly as we met unknown Japanese and Korean brothers and sisters in busy airport terminals and train stations from Sapporo to Fukuoka to Seoul to Pusan. The warmth of the gospel light radiating from these brothers and sisters was the identifying characteristic that brought us together. We are grateful for the standards they set. You have been blessed with the opportunity to study at this great university. We only wish many others could join us in the intellectual and spiritual renewal that is available here. That day will come as the Lord continues to make the world smaller through improved communications. Each person gathered in the Marriott Center today is a rightful heir to the blessings of Abraham, the Old Testament prophet. When Abraham was 99 years old, the Lord appeared to him and said: I am the Almighty God; walk before me. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee. During the course of history there have been a number of occasions when righteous Abrahamic descendants have enjoyed living under the gospel covenant. Whenever the Lord has had a covenant people on earth, a special term has been applied to them. In what ways are righteous people peculiar? There are at least three differentiating characteristics. First, they believe in and have a greater knowledge of God and his Son. They not only believe in a supreme being but come to know and trust him. Second, the trust in deity helps them live differently from others as they abide gospel principles. This in turn leads to a special bonding among them. Students on this campus come from more than nations. As you meet, we hope you will find that gospel beliefs shared are stronger than cultural differences that may divide. Third, almost everyone in this audience has received a special gift as a result of promises made. A covenant people not only believe in God but are sensitive to spiritual things through the power of the Holy Ghost. I sensed this peculiarity last Thursday when 5, freshmen gathered in this hall. As covenant children of the Lord and as his peculiar treasure, we must strengthen continually our faith in him and in his atonement. Diligence and Obedience The students at this university have broader objectives than most students elsewhere. Many are seeking sacred as well as secular truth. You have chosen Brigham Young University knowing the dual nature of the institution. A few months ago I received a letter from a young woman who expressed her feelings in this regard. I especially am grateful for the emphasis. I felt a lot of pressure from teachers and peers to attend an Ivy League school, Stanford, or one of the more prestigious University of California schools. They could not understand why I would even consider BYU “let alone choose it above the others! But in my mind, I knew the importance of educating my spirit as well as my brain. I wanted a religious education as well as a secular one. I knew that BYU was a place that could provide this type of experience. Whether one attempts to learn by faith or by study, the learning process is similar in at least two respects. Whatever principle of intelligence we attain unto in this life, it will rise with us in the resurrection. And if a person gains more knowledge and intelligence in this life through his diligence and obedience than another, he will have so much the advantage in the world to come. He was unable to do so, and the Lord explained why. Behold, you

have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me. But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right. As an undergraduate student, good grades came easily for me. My diligence was generally confined to class time plus the night before the exam. There were only a few classes that caused me to stretch. Looking back, I now realize how I squandered a major opportunity. In contrast, graduate school was a different experience. I was three years behind in mathematics and not well prepared in my major. It took 18 hours a day, six days a week, of study and class time to compete with the better students. While taking courses in my chosen field, I also studied calculus and difference and differential equations, plus linear algebra—tools required to pass the major exams. I vowed then to apply my energies in whatever pursuit I was engaged and not waste opportunities. Students, take advantage of the BYU educational opportunity by going the extra mile in your homework. In addition to the required materials, read the papers on the suggested list. Take time to become acquainted with your instructors. Establish study groups and use the library. Just as the secular learning process requires diligence, so does the search for sacred truths. The Prophet Joseph Smith stated: Lundwall [Salt Lake City: In other words, sacred knowledge or a witness of the Spirit comes only after the expenditure of significant mental energy. I remember that interview with him. He was 6 foot 5 inches tall and pounds. He was a fine young man, clean-cut and worthy in every way. I remember being impressed with his potential. I could tell from the answers he gave to the questions I asked that he was honest, but there was one crack in his armor. I knew that his testimony was based on the faith of others rather than on his own witness. However, he related the following story to me during his release interview at the end of his mission. As his mission began, Elder Stone worked energetically with his companion. Frequently he was called upon to give the first lesson. In the lesson it was necessary for him to tell the investigators about the appearance of the Father and the Son to the boy Joseph in the Sacred Grove and then bear witness of its truthfulness. After bearing testimony a number of times, his conscience began to bother him. Although he believed the story, he did not know that it actually happened. He had not been there, nor had he received his own witness. How could he tell others that the First Vision really happened? As doubts began to multiply and replace his belief and as the pains of conscience increased, he told his companion that he could no longer be a missionary. He was going home. He could not serve as a witness to something he did not know. You need to study and pray more diligently. Exercise your faith, and you will receive an answer. Stay with me for a few more weeks. A few weeks passed, the missionary worked harder, prayed more often, was more attentive in his reading, but no witness came. Finally, during an interview with the mission president, Elder Stone expressed his frustrations and indicated his desire to return home. He could not continue. You have a desire to believe. If you continue faithful in your calling for a few more weeks, the Lord will answer your prayers. Again, days and then weeks passed with no change in his feelings. One morning as they were knocking on doors, a woman answered and invited them to return when her husband and children would be home. He wanted a witness before entering the home. But when the appointed hour came, he still had not received a witness. He had read diligently, he had prayed almost continuously, but there were no special feelings.

7: God's Peculiar Treasure Sermon by Mack Armstrong, Exodus - www.enganchecubano.com

A PECULIAR PEOPLE (Part 1) # A PECULIAR TREASURE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE RENEWED UNTO REPENTANCE "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light". (1 Pet).

By Art Davison - Last updated: These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel. Israel spent years in Egypt. Many of those years were good years, but a new monarch to over and Israel became a threat to them. Bondage followed and Israel suffered at the hands of the Egyptians. They also grew to be a very numerous people. God saw their suffering and remembered His promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The Lord redeemed Israel. He reminds them of what he had done for them, v. This is an example of the tender way that God deals with His people, Deuteronomy God redeemed them with great ease and with the strength of an eagle, Isaiah Solely because He loved her, Isaiah The Lord did not love them because they were a large people, Deuteronomy 7: God would keep His word with their fathers, Deuteronomy 7: The glory of their deliverance is compared to ours in Christ, 1 Peter 3: A book of remembrance was written, Malachi 3: For those that feared Him, Malachi 4: The Sun of Righteousness, Isaiah 9: He brought great benefits, Psalm For those that thought upon His name, Psalm Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, 1 Peter 1: Redeemed to God, Revelation 5: A Chosen Generation, 1 Peter 2: Examine yourselves to see if you are in that generation. Have you trusted Christ? If so, is your life a testimony of His Grace in your life?

8: Peculiar People: A reserved treasure for an appointed time.

The word "treasure" cannot be separated from the "peculiar," for segullah means something that is exceedingly precious and is painstakingly cared for and reserved. In some ways it connotes a special treasure that the King has purchased for himself.

Later it becomes an epitheton usitatum of Israel. He is always "the Most High over all the earth" Psalm He is the favoured son; but they, too, "are, all of them, children of the Most High" Psalm Pulpit Commentary Verse 5. Instead of asking the simple question - "Will ye promise to obey me and keep my covenant. If they will agree to obey his voice, and accept and keep his covenant, then they shall be to him a peculiar treasure segullah - a precious possession to be esteemed highly and carefully guarded from all that might injure it. All the earth is his: But this shall not interfere with the special Israelite prerogative they alone shall be his "peculiar people" Deuteronomy Matthew Henry Commentary The Maker and first Mover of the covenant, is God himself. The covenant here mentioned was the national covenant, by which the Israelites were a people under the government of Jehovah. It was a type of the new covenant made with true believers in Christ Jesus; but, like other types, it was only a shadow of good things to come. As a nation they broke this covenant; therefore the Lord declared that he would make a new covenant with Israel, writing his law, not upon tables of stone, but in their hearts, Jer The covenant spoken of in these places as ready to vanish away, is the national covenant with Israel, which they forfeited by their sins. Unless we carefully attend to this, we shall fall into mistakes while reading the Old Testament. We must not suppose that the nation of the Jews were under the covenant of works, which knows nothing of repentance, faith in a Mediator, forgiveness of sins, or grace; nor yet that the whole nation of Israel bore the character, and possessed the privileges of true believers, as being actually sharers in the covenant of grace. They were all under a dispensation of mercy; they had outward privileges and advantages for salvation; but, like professing Christians, most rested therein, and went no further. Israel consented to the conditions. They answered as one man, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. Oh that there had been such a heart in them! Moses, as a mediator, returned the words of the people to God.

9: Exodus KJV - Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice - Bible Gateway

Peculiar. as used in the phrase "peculiar people" in 1 Peter , is derived from the Lat. peculium, and denotes, as rendered in the Revised Version ("a people for God's own possession"), a special possession or property.

My wife and I love this place. We have been on this campus several times and always feel a special spirit here. In fact, Wendy would love to live here. It is her favorite place on earth. She wants me to come and teach and work here. He said, "You know we have very high standards here! Thank you so much for the privilege of being with you. When I was younger and thinner I was a pretty good athlete. I know you may find it hard to believe, but I was a "star" basketball player. As my children can attest, the older I get the better I was! Even my son who is pretty fair athlete himself has never beaten me in one-on-one games. I retired from playing him--Undefeated! He sometimes got close but he could never beat me. So what if he was only seven! Basketball was just about everything to me when I was in high school. I ate, drank, slept basketball and relished being a starter and "star" on the varsity team. Knowing how much all this meant to me, my Mom and Dad gave me a most unique Christmas gift my senior year in high school--a gift that I will never forget and will always cherish. I had received much more expensive gifts and all kinds of electronic gadgets that have long since been forgotten and are now moldering and rusting in some garbage dump. My mother found a ceramic figurine of a basketball player in the dime store for you youngsters not familiar with the term "dime store" just think of it as pre-Wal-Mart. She had it sandblasted and the paint stripped from it and then repainted it with my school colors, my jersey number on it, and my name on the back. The player even looked like me--same hair color and style--and extremely handsome and very buff--a real "hottie! Mom then placed the little figurine in a box and wrapped it in my school colors. It was really a cool gift! I kept it in my bedroom, took it to my dorm room when I went away to college, displayed in our apartment after we were married, moved it from house to house, and it finally landed permanently in my office when I started my teaching career. It meant so much to me. It was truly unique--because no one had one like it, but more than that, it was symbolic of the love my parents had for me. One scriptural event in the Old Testament is especially important to me. And since we are studying the Old Testament in our Gospel Doctrine classes this year, I thought you might find it interesting and personally relevant as well. As you remember, Jehovah miraculously liberated the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt--even swallowing up their enemies in the depths of the Red Sea. As they wandered in the desert, he led them in a marvelous way so that they would know that he was indeed with them every step of the way. In the heat of the day he was a cooling cloud unto them, and in the bitter cold of desert nights, he was a warming pillar of fire. And that was not all. He preserved and protected them in many other ways. They were fed by manna from heaven six days a week for 40 years. When they got tired of manna for every meal and were craving some meat, he miraculously provided quail. When they were suffering from thirst, by the power of God, Moses struck a rock with his staff, and out gushed cold, pure water. Even the clothes they wore on that arduous trek miraculously never wore out. And even bigger and better than all of these miracles--God had something else in store for them. At the base of Mt. Sinai, the prophet Moses commanded the Israelites, as the Lord had instructed him, to have the Israelites sanctify themselves and to prepare in every way for a great blessing. The Lord is clearly is giving us a "cause and effect" declaration. If we obey and keep our covenants then he is going to do something remarkable for us and to us. He is going to transform us into his "peculiar treasure. The Hebrew word from which the word "peculiar" is translated is segullah. It is one of my favorite words. The word "treasure" cannot be separated from the "peculiar," for segullah means something that is exceedingly precious and is painstakingly cared for and reserved. In some ways it connotes a special treasure that the King has purchased for himself. That connotation takes on additional significance when you look at the word "peculiar" as used by the Apostle Peter in the New Testament. To the Saints of the early Church, he declared: It means a treasure that has been "purchased. It is through the Atonement of Jesus Christ and obedience to the covenants and commandments of His Gospel -- the new and everlasting covenant--that we become His "peculiar treasure. In the ancient world a covenant-treaty was between two unequal parties. The weaker of the two made certain commitments to enjoy

the mercy and protection of the stronger. Such is the case with our relationship to God. We must rely totally upon his mercy and goodness. We gain far more from the covenant than we give. The Old Testament gives us a glimpse into what the Lord expects of us today to remain as His "peculiar treasure" that has been purchased through the sacred blood of Christ. The ancient Israelites were expected to do two things to fully enjoy the promised blessings of the covenant: First, they were expected to be "different from the world" -- peculiar -- not in the weird or strange sense, but in the "good different" way. They were commanded to eat and drink, as well as not eat or drink, certain things. This dietary law was different from all the surrounding nations. This expectation to be noticeably different from the world is directly linked to the second covenantal obligation. Secondly, the Lord expected them anciently and us today as children of Abraham to proclaim the gospel and to be an influence for good and righteousness to all around them. God wanted ancient Israel and us of His modern Church to be segullah -- a peculiar treasure not just for differentness sake, but rather so that they, and you and I could bless the lives of others. Salt, as a preservative, represented the Abrahamic Covenant -- the Everlasting Covenant of the Gospel--that must go forth to bless and save all the nations of the earth. It was this symbol which Jesus was referring to when he counseled his disciples in the Sermon the Mount to be "the salt of the earth. We have in our food storage room in the basement of our home several containers of salt. Even after many years, when I open one of those containers of salt, it still tastes like salt. We better understand what Jesus was teaching when we recognize that salt can lose its distinctive flavor and its preservative power only one way--through contamination by impurities or outside elements. As segullah we are indeed the salt of the earth and we only lose our treasured status with the Lord, as well as our righteous influence upon others and the right to be a blessing to the world, if we become contaminated--by trying to be like everyone else in the world and allowing the wicked influences of the world to weaken our spiritual strength. The children of Israel did not get to go into the literal presence of God at Mt. Sinai as the Lord had promised them. Most of all, they forgot that they were segullah! Many centuries later the descendants of the children of Israel did something equally as dumb. They rejected the counsel of the prophet Samuel and demanded a king to rule over them so they could be "like all the other nations of the world. When they demanded a king, they were no longer peculiar--unique--they had become like everyone else--at least like all the unbelieving nations that surrounded them. When they became like everyone else--they were no longer segullah, and as a result, they no longer had claim upon the protection and preservation the Lord had promised for his "treasure. Instead of being blessed and prospered, they were persecuted and afflicted with all manner of plagues and problems. Ultimately, they were taken into bondage by their neighbors--the very nations that they sought to be like! The consequences of his choices not only affected him, but his family, and entire nation. Even before he was born he had been consecrated unto the Lord and was to be the foreordained deliverer of his people. The Lord blessed him with many gifts and great strength. He had made a covenant to remain "sacredly aloof from all unrighteousness" -- I love that phrase -- "sacredly aloof from all unrighteousness. In the end, he lost all his great gifts and the scriptures tell us that he became "weak like unto other men. His name was Samson. So what does all this talk about a peculiar people, covenants, and salt have to do with us today? As members of the Church we cannot be -- "for display purposes only" -- we have covenantal obligations to meet and foreordained missions to perform. Prophets of God have declared that you are a "chosen generation" and I certainly hope that it applies to me and my generation as well --the "spirit nobility of heaven" -- that has been reserved to come forth in this day when Satan is unleashing all of his last gasp efforts to destroy the souls of men. You were called and prepared from before the foundation of the world to come to the earth in these troubling times, because you have the strength to resist and fight against these evil influences and the power to help others do so as well. As a son or daughter of God, being, as President Harold B. Lee said, "loyal to the royal within you" will not only bless your life more than you can imagine, but also bless the lives of people around you--your family, your friends, and even people you may never know in mortality. But you can only do this if you are segullah -- peculiar, unique, treasured, untainted, pure. You can only do this if you resist the urge to be like everyone else. Maxwell, perhaps, said it best: Satan would have us think that we can dance and dine in the great and spacious building without letting go of the iron rod. Unfortunately, there are far, far too many of us who want to be a "chosen generation" without being a "peculiar treasure" -- we want to be good, but not too good and we want

to be bad, but not too bad. This attitude manifests itself in questions and statements like these--all of which I have heard a zillion times before: I think they are cool! It is about being and remaining segullah.

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