

Old Testament 301 Scripture Block Critiques/Appraisals

SBC #1 — Title: “Moses”

Write eleven (11) paragraphs on the following blocks of scripture; identify each block by its number and reference. You may comment beyond the suggestions given with the references below.

1. Moses 1:8-11. What did Moses experience and not experience? Why? What was his reaction to what we would now call "secular humanism"?
2. Moses 1:12-23. What do we learn about our power over Satan when we command him to leave? Why does this story not appear in the Bible?
3. Moses 1:24-38. What else did Moses experience and not experience? What two great philosophical questions did Moses ask and how did the Lord answer them? How many Adam's are there? Where are the others?
4. Moses 1:39-42. What is God's "job description"? Why is this story missing from the Bible?
5. Moses 3:16-17. What can we learn about the situation of the Garden of Eden, free will (choice), and agency (power to act)?
6. Moses 4:1-6. From the "Pre-existent First Estate" and the first quotation from President J. Reuben Clark, Jr., how did Satan plan to thwart our agency? Could he really force us to be righteous? What might "he knew not the mind of God" mean since he was and is extremely knowledgeable?
7. Moses 4:7-32. When does the woman get the name "Eve" chronologically, or in relation to the Fall? Did God command them not to eat of the fruit of the tree of good and evil?
8. Moses 5:12-46. What have you learned about Satan and Cain?
9. Moses 6:29 cross-referenced with 1 Nephi 15:35. How do you reconcile these two paradoxical verses?

10. Moses 6:48-63. What are the effects of the Fall? Was the gift of the Holy Ghost available in Old Testament times? (LDS believe in "original guilt" but LDS do not believe in Augustine's "original sin.") What is God's name? (See also 7:35.) How do you parallel water, spirit, and blood in mortal birth and in being "born again" spiritually? Did the term "plan of salvation" exist in Old Testament times?

11. Moses 7:62-65. What clues about the Restoration are in this verse? What clues exist about the millennium and its length?

SBC #2 — Title: “Abraham”

Write eleven (11) paragraphs on the following blocks of scripture; identify each block by its number and reference. You may comment beyond the suggestions given with the references below.

1. Abr 1:2-4. What degree of priesthood responsibility was Abraham seeking? What did he want beyond what he already had? What did he get?
2. Abr 1:8-12. What is there to learn from this block regarding apostate religion?
3. Abr 1:21-27. What kind of man was the first Pharaoh of Egypt? Who was his mother. Why did he not hold the priesthood? What did he do about that?
4. Abr 2:9-11, 19. What are the three main elements of the Abrahamic Covenant?
5. Abr 3:1-10. What is Kolob? What seems to be the determining factor that makes one planet greater or lesser than another? Why is the moon considered greater than the earth?
6. Abr 3:16-19. What is the point of talking about the differences in the planets and then talking about differences in spirits?
7. Abr 3:22-23. How are organized intelligences, spirits, and souls the same thing — synonyms — in Abraham's writings?

8. Abr 3:24-28. What is the purpose of earth life that Abraham mentions in this block? Does it say that those who keep NOT their first estate will not have any glory at all (outer darkness)? Where/when is the first estate? the second estate? Who were the “first” and the “second”?
9. Abr 3:4; Facsimile #2, Fig. 1; Abr 5:13. What do we can we learn about time and the creation from these three passages?
10. Abr 4:11-12, 20-22, 24-31. Did the Gods place animal life on the earth during these verses/days, or did they merely prepare the water and the land to sustain life forms? What takes place during day 6? When does the word “counsel” first appear in the book of Abraham? What is decided in that counsel (the “blueprint”)? What is discovered when verb tenses are carefully examined in reading the creation story in Abraham 4 & 5?
11. Abr 5. What is the order of things created on the 7th Day? What does D&C 77:6, 12 have to do with Abraham 5?

SBC #3 — Title: “Genesis 1-17”

Write fifteen (15) paragraphs on the following blocks of scripture; identify each block by its number and reference. You may comment beyond the suggestions given with the references below.

1. Genesis 6:16. Footnote 16a. What insight does this footnote give us into the story of the Brother of Jared in which the Lord told him everything he was to do to solve the air problem, but left it up to the Brother of Jared to deal with the light problem?
2. Genesis 7:11-24. What do we learn about the Flood and related circumstances?
3. Genesis 9:1-7. What do we learn about the “new start” for life after the Flood?
4. Genesis 14:24a. JST 14:25-40. What new insights are given to the story by the JST account?
5. Genesis 15:1-21. JST 15:9-12. What is your response/reaction to the events and contents of this chapter. What new insights are given to the story by the JST account?

6. Genesis 17:1-27. JST 17:3-7, 9, 11-12, 17. What about the Abrahamic Covenant? Identify, if possible, the 3 elements of the covenant: priesthood, posterity, & property. What new insights are given to the story by the JST account?
7. Manual, (1-11) Key 5: Understanding the Nature of God Provides Special Insight. Respond/react to these two paragraphs.
8. Manual, (2-10) Genesis 1:26-27. “Let Us Make Man in Our Image” What insights could be derived about Mother in Heaven?
9. Manual, (2-12) Genesis 1:28. What Does “Replenish” Mean? What are the implications of misinterpreting the word?
10. Manual, (2-14) Genesis 1:28. “Be Fruitful and Multiply” What strong counsel does President Kimball give?
11. Manual, (3-11) Genesis 3:19. The Fall of Adam Introduced Two Kinds of Death into the World. What are the implications of this section?
12. Manual, (A-2) Jehovah, or Christ, Is the God of the Old Testament. What are the implications and teachings, doctrine and principles, of this section?
13. Manual, (4-5) Genesis 4:9. “Am I My Brother’s Keeper?” See also “Am I My Brother’s Keeper” by Elder Neal A. Maxwell on the Documents List. What are the implications of these writings?
14. Manual, (5-9) Genesis 14:18. Who Was Melchizedek? React/respond to the contents of this section.
15. Manual, (5-17) Genesis 17:2-14. What Is the Significance of Circumcision as a Token of the Covenant? Respond/react to the contents of this section.

SBC # 4 — Title: “Genesis 19--Exodus 20”

Write twelve (12) paragraphs on the following blocks of scripture; identify each block by its number and reference. You may comment beyond the suggestions given with the references below.

1. Gen 19:1-38; JST Gen 19:1, 9-15, 18, 37. What clarification are made by the JST in this episode?

2. Gen 22:1-24. What did Abraham learn about Abraham in this incident? What did Isaac learn about Abraham? What can we learn about God and ourselves? (NB: Josephus indicates that Isaac was about 25 years old at the time. The naming of the place (v. 14) indicates that God was present. Now the Covenant is in full force; Abraham has his calling and election made sure.)

3. Gen 38 & 39. These chapters provide a “foil,” or a contrast, to each other. List and explain the contrasts that exist between the character of Judah and that of Joseph.

4. JST Gen 50:24-38. What additional information does the JST add to the end of Genesis? Since Moses was a prince of Egypt, is it possible he may have read the writings of Joseph in the archives? Could he have read about himself? See 2 Nephi 3:7-21. How does Joseph Smith fit into the story?

5. JST Exodus 3:2; 4:24; 6:3; 7:13. How does the JST improve on these three passages and make things clearer? (See also manual, 9-21 on page 107.)

6. Exodus 7-12. How many plagues do the priests of pharaoh try to duplicate? In how many are they successful? How many times does the pharaoh promise that the Israelites can go free and then goes back on his word?

7. Exodus 19-21. What opportunity does God make available to the Israelites? Why don't they end up accepting the invitation? Who do the Israelites prefer to follow? What are some interesting eternal, Melchizedek Priesthood, higher laws given in Exodus 21? Note: these laws are not part of the law of Moses, which is instituted *after* Exodus 32.

8. Manual, 6-5, 6-6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9. What additional and interesting information does the manual provide about the story of Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah?

9. Manual, 8-8 (p. 100). What can be learned about the lineage of most members of the Church? about patriarchal (“pay tree ar kal” not “patriotical”) blessings?

10. Manual, 9-13 (p. 105). What is the significance of the title *I Am*?

11. Manual, 9-24, (p. 105). What does Joseph

Fielding Smith say about the devil being able to heal, etc.?

12. Manual, 11-8, (pp. 129-131). What can be learned about keeping the Sabbath Day holy?

SBC # 5 – Title: “Exodus 21--Deuteronomy 34”

Write 11 paragraphs on the following blocks of scripture and manual references. Identify each block by consecutive number and by reference.

1. Ex 21-23. What are some of the more interesting aspects of the “higher law” in these chapters? (The Law of Moses does not come into existence until after Exodus 32.)

2. What contributions does the JST make to Ex 33 & 34 (footnotes & Appendix)?

3. Lev 26:14-28. How does the Lord say He will deal with the disobedient? (It isn't exactly “the golden rule”.) How does that relate to Deut 7:9-10; D&C 101:7-8; Mosiah 11:22-25; 21:15?

4. Numbers 16. List at least 4 things (doctrines, principles, etc.) that can be learned and/or applied from this chapter.

5. Numbers 20:7-13. In what way did Moses not follow the directions of the Lord?

6. Deut 4:2; compare with Rev 22:18-19. Some Christians attack the Book of Mormon as violating the warning in Revelation. What does the passage in Deuteronomy do to the false argument? See Manual (19-7), 216-217.

7. Manual (12-4), (12-6), 138-140. Write about capital punishment and the law.

8. Manual (14-5), (14-6), (14-7), 164-165. What information can be gathered about the sacrifices from these sections?

9. Manual (14-12), (14-14), (14-17), (14-18), 166-168. Discuss the sin and trespass offerings.

10. Manual, (D-4), (D-5), (D-6), (D-7), 181-183. Discuss the annual feasts.

11. Manual (19-9), 217. What about the scattering and gathering of Israel? Use Deut 28:64; 1 Ne 10:12-13; 19:16; 22:5, 7, 25; 3 Ne 5:24-26; 16:5; 20:13; Eth 13:11.