

Lesson 38: “Beside Me There Is No Saviour”

Old Testament Gospel Doctrine Teacher’s Manual

Preparation:

Read the lesson and accompanying scriptures

Gather your supplies:

scriptures

a copy of the yellow pages

visual aids: printed and cut out

a few hymnbooks

Attention Activity:

The ten chapters of Isaiah that are covered in this lesson are considered to be poetry. Hebrew poetry was not like what we think of as poetry now-- it doesn't rhyme or have the same structure as what we are used to. And even if it did rhyme in Hebrew, it wouldn't when it was translated into English.

But Hebrew poetry does have a lot of repetition- Isaiah says the same thing over and over in slightly different ways to emphasize his ideas. Let's look at an example of poetic repetition in something we are familiar with: the hymns in our hymnbook.

(**Hand** out some hymnbooks.)

Tell them: It's like the chorus in a song- we sing the verses of a song that present the general idea of what the song is about, then we repeat the chorus between the verses for emphasis, like in hymn #7. (**LOOK** at #7.)

(Now **turn** to #85 How Firm a Foundation

Have them read through verse 3.)

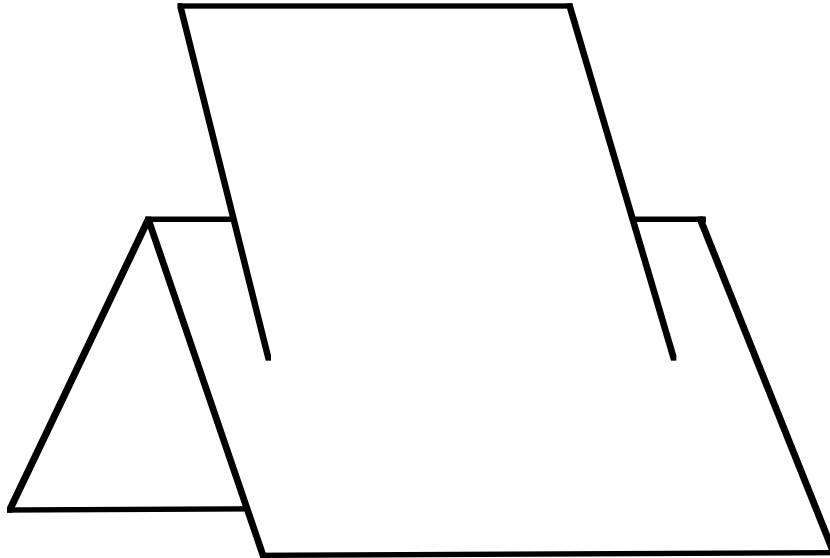
This is the verse that this part of the song is based on:

(**Read** Isaiah 41:10)

Isaiah is written in such poetic language that many of the verses are used in music, and quite a bit of Handel's Messiah is taken from Isaiah's words. Now we are going to look at some of the repetition of ideas in Isaiah.

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(**Hand** out the scripture references cards. **Stand** up the mini-posters that say *blindness/deafness* and *thirsty/desert*.)



Have a class member read a scripture on their card. Have them decide which sign the scripture goes with and have them put the scripture card by the sign it goes with. Continue having them read and discuss until all the cards have been used.

(Some of the scriptures have some commentary for you to discuss and some don't. See the Teacher's scripture page.)

Discuss how the repetition in these verses helps us understand and remember the things Isaiah is teaching about Jesus Christ.

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The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that we need “a correct idea of God’s character, perfections and attributes” in order to have faith in Him”. Isaiah wants us to know that no one can do for us what the Savior can do.

(**Show** them the yellow pages.)

Before the internet, when we needed help for a problem, we looked in the yellow pages and there were people who could help us with all kinds of problems from A to Z. Now we just google it when we want to know the answer to something that we have trouble or we need help with.

Isaiah tells us that there is no one who can do for us what the Savior can do. We can’t google it when we need forgiveness for our sins, or we have a trial in our lives.

Read:

Isaiah 44:8 (“Is there a God beside me?”)

Isaiah 46:5 (“To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me?”)

Isaiah 43:11 (“Beside me there is no saviour.”)

Isaiah 44:6 (“Beside me there is no God.”)

Isaiah 41:17

Old Testament Gospel Doctrine lesson # 38

Teacher's copy of the scriptures with commentary for part 1 to be used with scripture cards and stand-up mini-posters

Isaiah 29:10 *For the Lord hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.*

It sounds strange that Isaiah says that it is the Lord who has closed their eyes and covered or hid the words of the prophets, but at this time the Israelite people were worshipping idols and breaking the other commandments, and so their spiritual blindness was a consequence of their own wickedness.

Isaiah 29:18 *And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.*

READ Isaiah 29:14 Tell them that the book that verse 18 is talking about is the Book of Mormon, so verse 18 is talking about our time.

Isaiah 32:3 *And the eyes of them that see shall not be dim, and the ears of them that hear shall hearken.*

Isaiah 42:6 *I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;*

7 *To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.*

Just imagine sitting in a dirty, dark, smelly, cold prison cell. Imagine being surrounded by other prisoners who are discouraged and miserable. Then imagine Jesus coming through the door, the light shines in, he takes each prisoner by the hand and leads them out into the warm sunlight.

Isaiah could just simply say-- "The Lord will help us in our trials"-- but he wants us to really feel something beyond just the simple idea. He wants us to imagine and feel the prisoners chains, and feel it when the Messiah breaks the chains and sets us free. He wants us to liken that feeling to our own dependance on the Savior to free us from our sins through the Atonement.

Isaiah 42:16 *And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.*

17 *They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.*

18 *Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.*

Isaiah 43:8 *Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.*

Isaiah 44:9 *They that make a graven image are all of them vanity; and their delectable things shall not profit; and they are their own witnesses; they see not, nor know; that they may be ashamed.*

Isaiah 12:3 *Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.*

Isaiah 32:2 *And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.*

Who do you think Isaiah is referring to in this verse when he says “a man”? He is talking about the Messiah, who is Jesus Christ. The Israelites lived in houses, but they spent a lot of time out in the countryside tending to their sheep and their crops. And when they traveled, it was usually a slow trip on foot along dirt roads. So they knew what it felt like to be caught out in the wind or in a storm, or out in the hot sun with no shade anywhere. So Isaiah wants us to imagine ourselves in those situations, and imagine Jesus as the shelter from the storm, the water in the desert, the shade from the burning sun.

Isaiah 41:17 *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.*

18 *I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.*

Isaiah 43:19 *Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.*

20 *The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.*

The footnote says that the Hebrew word translated as dragons could refer to jackals or ostriches.

Isaiah 44:3 *For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring:*

4 *And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.*

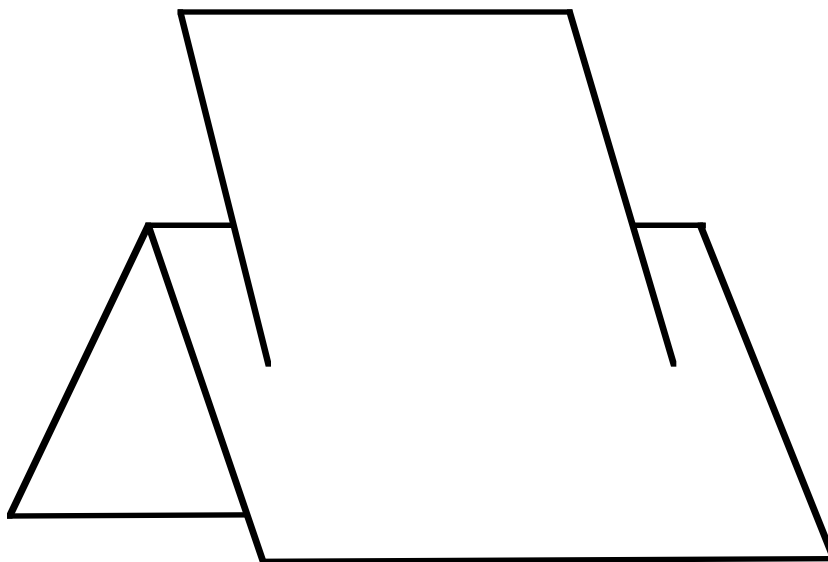
Isaiah 48:18 *O that thou hadst hearkened to my commandments! then had thy peace been as a river, and thy righteousness as the waves of the sea:*

21 *And they thirsted not when he led them through the deserts: he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them: he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.*

Isaiah 49:10 *They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.*

Note: After they read and discuss the scriptures and put them where they go, **put the stand-up mini poster** with John 8:12 over the top of the one that says blindness/deafness.

Put the stand-up mini poster with John 4:7-14 over the top of the one that says thirsty/desert.



ISAIAH 29:10	ISAIAH 29:18
ISAIAH 32:3	ISAIAH 42:6-7
ISAIAH 42:16-18	ISAIAH 43:8
ISAIAH 44:9	ISAIAH 12:3
ISAIAH 32:2	ISAIAH 41:17-18
ISAIAH 43:19-20	ISAIAH 44:3-4

ISAIAH 48:18 AND 21
ISAIAH 49:10

THIRSTY



DESERT

ISAIAH'S SYMBOLISM

BLINDNESS



DEAFNESS

ISAIAH'S SYMBOLISM

THEN SPAKE JESUS AGAIN
UNTO THEM SAYING,
I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD:
HE THAT FOLLOWETH ME
SHALL NOT WALK
IN DARKNESS,
BUT SHALL HAVE
THE LIGHT OF LIFE.
JOHN 8:12

ISAIAH'S SYMBOLISM

BUT WHOSOEVER DRINKETH
OF THE WATER
THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL
NEVER THIRST;
BUT THE WATER
THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM
SHALL BE IN HIM
A WELL OF WATER
SPRINGING UP
INTO EVERLASTING LIFE.
JOHN 4:14

ISAIAH'S SYMBOLISM