

The Atonement of Jesus Christ
Week One – September 13, 2023
Invitation
Notes and Quotes

A little learning is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep or taste not of the Pierian Spring;
Where shallow draughts intoxicate the brain,
And drinking deeply sobers it again.

Alexander Pope

Atonement of Jesus Christ:

*Adapted from Russell M. Nelson, “The Atonement,”
General Conference, October 1996*

Hebrew – kaphar, *kaw-far´*; to cover; to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel: --appease, make (an) atonement, cleanse, disannul, forgive, be merciful, pacify, **pardon, purge (away), put off**, (make) reconciliation. [Also: Kippur—expiation, (only in plural)]. **MERCY – Pardon Sins**

Greek – Katallage, *kat-al-lag-ay´*; restoration to (the divine) favor; reconciliation. **CHANGE OF HEART**

Aramaic or Arabic – kafat; a close embrace. **GRACE**

English – **1.** Satisfaction or reparation for a wrong or injury; amends. **2.** *Theol* the doctrine concerning the reconciliation of God and man, as accomplished through the life, suffering, and death of Christ. **3.** *Christian Science*, **the state of union with God in which man exemplifies the attributes of God.** **4.** *Archaic*, reconciliation; agreement, unity. **ATONEMENT**

Ezekiel 36:25-28

Personal Insight, May 18, 2018

- 25: **The Power to Cleanse** us through the price that he paid so that he could extend mercy to those who repent. This correlates with *kaphar*, the Hebrew word for atonement which means, “to cover.”
- 26: **The Power to Change** us by giving us a new heart and spirit; one that has no more disposition to do evil. This aligns with *katallage*, the Greek word for atonement which means “to reconcile.” or bring back into balance.
- 27: **The Power to Walk** in His Ways and Do Good. This aligns with the *kafat*, the Aramaic form of atonement which means *to embrace*. I equate this with *grace*, the divine help or strength we receive from Christ to do the good we otherwise could not do on our own.
- 28: **The Power to be At One with God.** This is the meaning of **atonement**, the English word used to describe the purpose of Christ’s mission, life, sacrifice, and resurrection. We become his people and dwell with him because we have now become one with Him.

(Cf. Alma 42:13-15; Mosiah 4:2-3; 5:2; Mosiah 24:15; John 17:2-23; 3 Nephi 19:25-33; Moroni 7:48)

Bruce R. McConkie, “The Purifying Power of Gethsemane,” *General Conference, April 1985*

May I invite you to join with me in gaining a sound and sure knowledge of the Atonement. We must cast aside the philosophies of men and the wisdom of the wise and hearken to that Spirit which is given to us to guide us into all truth. We must search the scriptures, accepting them as the mind and will and voice of the Lord and the very power of God unto salvation.”

Russell M. Nelson, “Drawing the Power of Jesus Christ in our Lives,” *General Conference, April 2017*

It is doctrinally incomplete to speak of the Lord’s atoning sacrifice by shortcut phrases, such as “the Atonement” or “the enabling power of the Atonement” or “applying the Atonement” or “being strengthened by the Atonement. These expressions present a real risk of misdirecting faith by treating the event as if it had living existence and capabilities independent of our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. There is no amorphous entity called “the Atonement” upon which we may call for succor, healing, forgiveness, or power. Jesus Christ is the source.

Richard G. Scott, “He Lives all Glory to His Name,” *General Conference, April 2010.*

There is an imperative need for each of us to strengthen our understanding of the significance of the Atonement of Jesus Christ so that it will become an unshakable foundation upon which to build our lives. As the world becomes more devoid of foundational standards and as honor, virtue, and purity are increasingly cast aside in the pursuit of appetite, our understanding of and faith in the Atonement of Jesus Christ will provide strength and capacity needed for a successful life. It will also bring confidence in times of trial and peace in moments of turmoil. I energetically encourage you to establish a personal study plan to better understand and appreciate the incomparable, eternal, infinite consequences of Jesus Christ’s perfect fulfillment of His divinely appointed calling as our Savior and Redeemer. Profound personal pondering of the scriptures accompanied by searching, heartfelt prayer will fortify your understanding of and appreciation for His priceless Atonement. Another powerful way to learn of Jesus Christ and His Atonement is through consistent temple attendance.

Don’t forget the invitation to study “*The Living Christ*” as you begin your study of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

All material for this class will be posted on my website: www.seekthesavior.com under the heading of “Study Guides.”