

November 23, 2003

Web site "nathanolsen.com"

Next Weeks Lesson: "God Is Love" ([1 John](#), [2 John](#), and [3 John](#))

Today's Lesson: "A Chosen Generation" ([1 Peter](#) and [2 Peter](#); [Jude](#))

The following story is told by Bishop Vaughn J. Featherstone:

"Many years ago I heard the story of the son of King Louis XVI of France. King Louis had been taken from his throne and imprisoned. His young son, the prince, was taken by those who dethroned the king. They thought that inasmuch as the king's son was heir to the throne, if they could destroy him morally, he would never realize the great and grand destiny that life had bestowed upon him.

"They took him to a community far away, and there they exposed the lad to every filthy and vile thing that life could offer. ... For over six months he had this treatment—but not once did the young lad buckle under pressure. Finally, after intensive temptation, they questioned him. Why had he not submitted himself to these things—why had he not partaken? These things would provide pleasure, satisfy his lusts, and were desirable; they were all his. The boy said, 'I cannot do what you ask for I was born to be a king' " ("The King's Son," [New Era, Nov. 1975, 35](#)).

Bishop Featherstone commented:

"Our Father is a king, and just as the king's son was exposed to every vile and perverted thing in this life, so you will be exposed to much of the filth and degradation of our generation. But you ... are also born to be kings and queens, priests and priestesses" ([New Era, Nov. 1975, 35](#)).

- As spirit children of our Heavenly Father, what is our potential? How should the knowledge of our divine potential influence the way we live?

As children of our Father in Heaven, we can become like him and inherit all that he has. The epistles of Peter and Jude offer valuable teachings to help us live worthily as children of God.

1. Live in faith and holiness as a chosen generation. ([1 Peter 1](#) and [1 Peter 2:1-10](#)).

- A. What did Peter teach in chapter 1 about the mission of Jesus Christ? (See [1 Peter 1:3-4](#), [1 Peter 1:18-21](#).) How should knowing of the Savior's mission and sacrifice affect our daily actions? (See [1 Peter 1:8](#), [1 Peter 1:13-16](#), [1 Peter 1:22-23](#); [1 Peter 2:5](#).)
- B. Why is faith "much more precious than ... gold," as Peter stated? (See [1 Peter 1:7](#); [Hebrews 11:6](#); [1 Nephi 7:12](#).) What do you think it means to have our faith tried with fire? What is the ultimate purpose of our faith? (See [1 Peter 1:5](#), [1](#)

[Peter 1:9.](#))

- C. Peter taught that the prophets who testify of Jesus Christ have “enquired and searched diligently” ([1 Peter 1:10](#); see also verse [1 Peter 1:11](#)). How can diligent prayer and scripture study strengthen our testimonies of the Savior?
- D. Who is the chosen generation that Peter spoke of? (See [1 Peter 2:9-10](#) and the quotation below.) What is our responsibility as a chosen generation? (See [1 Peter 2:9](#).) How can we fulfill this responsibility? (See [Matthew 5:16](#).)

Elder Bruce R. McConkie defined a chosen generation as “not those living in a particular period or age, but ... the house of Israel both anciently, in the meridian of time, and now in these latter-days. ... [It includes] faithful members of the Church who have taken upon themselves the name of Christ and been adopted into his family” (*Doctrinal New Testament Commentary*, 3 vols. [1966-73], 3:294).

2. Follow the Savior’s example in enduring trials and persecution. ([1 Peter 2:19-24](#); [1 Peter 3:13-17](#); [1 Peter 4:12-19](#))

- A. Peter wrote that “Christ ... suffered for us, leaving us an example” ([1 Peter 2:21](#)). What can we do to follow the Savior’s example in responding to trials and persecution? (See [1 Peter 2:19-23](#).) What examples have you seen of people who are Christlike in enduring trials? How are we blessed as we follow the Savior’s example in responding to trials?
- B. When have you (or someone you know) been persecuted for doing the Lord’s will? How did Peter counsel us to respond in such circumstances? (See [1 Peter 3:13-17](#); [1 Peter 4:12-19](#).) In what ways do trials give us an opportunity to draw closer to the Lord and to glorify him?

3. Partake of the divine nature and strive to make your calling and election sure. ([2 Peter 1](#))

- A. Which attributes did Peter describe as part of divine nature? (See [2 Peter 1:4-7](#).) Why is it important that we develop these qualities? (See [2 Peter 1:8](#).) How have you seen these attributes demonstrated by others?
- B. Peter exhorted the Saints to “give diligence to make your calling and election sure” ([2 Peter 1:10](#)). What does it mean to make your calling and election sure? (To receive from the Lord the assurance or promise of exaltation in the celestial kingdom. A person whose calling and election is made sure knows that he or she is “sealed up unto eternal life, by revelation and the spirit of prophecy” [[D&C 131:5](#)]. Joseph Smith received this promise from the Lord, as recorded in Doctrine and Covenants [D&C 132:49](#).)

C. What must we do to have our calling and election made sure?

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught: “After a person has faith in Christ, repents of his sins, and is baptized for the remission of his sins and receives the Holy Ghost (by the laying on of hands), ... then let him continue to humble himself before God, hungering and thirsting after righteousness, and living by every word of God, and the Lord will soon say unto him, Son, thou shalt be exalted. When the Lord has thoroughly proved him, and finds that the man is determined to serve Him at all hazards, then the man will find his calling and his election made sure” (*Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, sel. Joseph Fielding Smith [1976], 150).

4. Resist false teachers and those who deny the Second Coming. ([2 Peter 2-3](#) and [Jude](#))

A. Peter and Jude warned that there would be false teachers among the members of the Church. What did they say were some characteristics of false teachers? (See [2 Peter 2:1-3](#), [2 Peter 2:10](#), [2 Peter 2:12-19](#); [Jude 1:4](#), [Jude 1:8](#), [Jude 1:10-13](#), [Jude 1:16](#), [Jude 1:18-19](#).) How can we recognize false teachers today?

B. What counsel did Peter and Jude give that can help us avoid false teachings and remain faithful as we prepare for the Second Coming? (See [2 Peter 3:11-14](#), [2 Peter 3:17-18](#); [Jude 1:3](#), [Jude 1:20-21](#); see also [Moroni 7:12-17](#); [D&C 45:57](#); [D&C 46:7-8](#).)

We must follow the teachings of Peter and Jude as they strive to live in faith and holiness.