In this lesson I will concentrate on chapter 13.

Alma 13

Verse 1: Alma has just concluded a sermon on repentance and the plan of salvation. Now he asks his listeners to recall when those commandments were given. Why does he ask them to look forward to that time?

Why does Alma think it necessary to conclude his sermon about repentance and redemption with a lesson on priesthood? Some have argued that the “holy order” referred to here is neither the Aaronic priesthood nor the Melchizedek priesthood, but temple priesthood. Do you think that is possible? Why or why not?

Verse 2: How does the manner of ordaining priests teach people how to look forward to Christ for redemption?

Verse 3: This verse consists of one sentence, but its grammar is fairly complex. Can you decide what the sentence says? For example, does it say those ordained were called and prepared in the premortal existence because of their faith and good works? Or does it say that they were prepared in the premortal existence and then called in this life because of their faith and good works? Are there other possible interpretations?
What does it mean that their holy calling was “prepared with, and according to” a preparatory redemption? What is a preparatory redemption?

**Verse 4:** What does it mean to be hard-hearted? To be blind of mind?

**Verses 1–4:** One summary of these verses might be “The Lord God ordained priests who have become what we are blessed to become.” Is that a reasonable summary? (Certainly it leaves things out, but does it capture an important theme in the verses?) If it is not a reasonable summary, why not?

**Verse 5:** If those called to be high priests were originally on the same standing as their brethren, does that mean that all were “called [to be priests] and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God” (verse 3)? If not, what does it mean?

**Verse 6:** Those who have this priesthood are to teach the Lord’s commandments. In what ways do they do that? What does it mean to enter into the Lord’s rest?

**Verses 7–8:** On the one hand, the high priesthood is said to have been prepared from the foundations of the world, which seems to indicate a particular point in time. On the other hand, the verse says that the high priesthood is “without beginning.” Which of these do you think is metaphorical? Why? Notice, too, that Alma says the calling and the ordinance (of ordination?) as well as the priesthood are without beginning or end. What does that mean?

**Verse 9:** What does it mean to say that the Son of God is “full of grace, equity, and truth”? We often see the phrase
“full of grace and truth” used to describe him. (See, for example, John 1:14; D&C 66:12; 93:11; Moses 1:32.) But Alma expands that phrase, here as well as in Alma 5:48 (where he says, “grace, mercy, and truth”) and Alma 9:26 (where he uses the same phrase that he uses here). How might you explain the fact that Alma expands that descriptive phrase? What might his additions teach us?

Verses 10–12: Do these verses mean that all who receive the high priesthood are sanctified? Why or why not? Who can be sanctified? How?

Alma says those who have been purified cannot look on sin except with abhorrence. What does that mean? Does it have anything to do with Mosiah 5:2? If a pure person abhors sin, how does he or she feel about those in sin?

Does the last part of verse 12 perhaps tell us something about what it means to enter into the Lord’s rest? (See the end of verse 13 also.) Does it equate being made pure with entering into his rest? If so, why is being made pure called “rest”? From what would purity be a rest?

Verse 16: To what ordinances is Alma referring when he says “these ordinances” in the beginning of the verse? The only one he’s referred to recently is that of ordination. Is that what he means? We have to know what ordinances Alma is referring to in order to understand the point he is making.

“These ordinances” were given so people could look forward to Christ. How do those ordinances do that?

Alma says that “it” is a type of the Son of God’s order and intends that to explain how the people look forward to
Christ. To what does the word *it* refer? How does what it refers to help them look forward to a remission of sins?

**Verses 17–19:** If Melchizedek was such a great spiritual leader, why do the scriptures say so little about him? Even with modern-day revelation, we know relatively little about him. What lesson might we learn about our own lives from this?

**Verses 20:** Against what is Alma warning them in this verse? Can we connect the sermon that follows this verse with his sermon on the priesthood?

Consider the message that follows in light of Alma’s warning against wrestling the scriptures.

**Verse 21:** What is the day of salvation? When is it? In what sense or senses is it drawing nigh?

**Verse 22:** What does it mean that the day of salvation was being declared to all nations by angels when Alma was speaking? How is the announcement of the day of salvation something to be greeted with joy rather than fear?

**Verse 23:** What does it mean that the glad tidings of the Lord are made known to us in “plain terms”? We’ve seen a number of relatively difficult passages in the Book of Mormon, including some in this chapter.

**Verse 25:** Though the Savior has already come, do we need to prepare people’s hearts to receive the news of his coming? If so, how do we do that?

**Verse 27:** Do you think Alma has entered into the Lord’s rest? If so, how is it that he can still feel pain and anxiety?
How are those compatible with rest? (Does the Lord feel pain and anxiety?)

**Verses 28–29:** Instead of procrastinating the day of our repentance, we should:

- humble ourselves
- watch and pray continually that we may not be tempted beyond our capacity
- be led by the Holy Spirit
- be humble, meek (gentle), submissive, patient, full of love and long-suffering
- have faith on the Lord
- have hope for eternal life
- have the love of God in our hearts

How do we humble ourselves? What does it mean that we should pray not to be tempted beyond our power to resist? I thought we couldn’t be tempted beyond that power. How are we led by the Spirit? How do we show the attributes in the list (humility, meekness, etc.)? How do we show our faith or trust in the Lord? Why do we have to have a hope for eternal life? What does it mean to have that hope? How do we have God’s love in our hearts? What shows that we do?