Lesson 40
Malachi 3:16–18; Doctrine and Covenants 85:9; 128:7; Moses 6:5–8, 46; Abraham 1:31

Malachi 3

*Verse 16:* What does this verse say that a book of remembrance is? What is being remembered in the book described here? Who is writing this book of remembrance “before him”? How does it differ from what the older people among us might think of when we think of the term “Book of Remembrance”? What is the connection between that understanding of a book of remembrance and the book of remembrance referred to in this verse?

*Verse 17:* Who will be the Lord’s? Who is this verse talking about?

When is the day that he will “make up [his] jewels”? What does that phrase mean? Another translation is “when I make a special treasure.” Does that help explain the meaning? If it is, what is the special treasure that he will make?

From what will he spare his jewels or special treasure?

*Verse 18:* What does *return* mean here? Repent, or something else? If something else, from where to where?

How is the judgment described in this verse related to the rest of the verses? Verse 16 says that the Lord knows about those who fear him and remember him, and he keeps a
book of remembrance of their names. Verse 17 says that those in the book will belong to the Lord and be spared as his children when the Lord makes up his special treasure. How is verse 18 related to that? What it says seems to be completely different: then (when?) you who have been spared will return (whatever that means) and you will judge between the righteous and unrighteous. At first glance that isn’t clearly related to the previous pronouncements.

Doctrine and Covenants 85

Verse 9: Whose name will not be in the book of remembrance?

What does it mean to say, “they shall be cut asunder”? We believe that ultimately only a few will be punished by the Father, so this (and “wailing and gnashing of teeth”) cannot refer to something like we see in Dante’s depiction of hell. To what does it refer?

Doctrine and Covenants 128

Verse 7: Joseph Smith is explaining the meaning of Revelation 20:12. Though he doesn’t use the phrase “book of remembrance” here, he seems to be referring to the same thing we saw in Malachi, though with more nuance.

Why does Joseph assume that the record of their works must be a record kept here on earth? How is that record different than the book of life? If there is a book of life, why would we need any records here on earth? Does verse 8 shed light on that?
Moses 6

Verse 5: Is the book of remembrance mentioned here the same as that mentioned in Malachi? Why or why not?

What was recorded in Adam’s book of remembrance?

Verse 7: Why is this comment about the priesthood inserted into the middle of a description of Adam’s record keeping and how he taught his children?

Verse 8: In the phrase “this was the book,” to what does this refer?

Is the genealogy that Adam kept, “the book of the generations of Adam,” the same as his book of remembrance? Why do you answer as you do?

Why does Adam say, “In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him,” in (presumably) his book of genealogy?

Abraham 1

Verse 31: When Abraham speaks of “the right of Priesthood,” what is he talking about? Why is it important that we know that he kept a record concerning that right? Where or how do we keep such a record?

Why is the reference to the ancients’ knowledge of the stars part of the same sentence as the note that they kept a record concerning the right to the priesthood? The two topics seem unrelated, yet they occur in the same sentence. Why?
What benefit might Abraham’s knowledge of the stars be to his posterity? He doesn’t tell us about any identifiable stars, so he isn’t giving them an understanding of navigation, for example. How is the knowledge that he gives a blessing to his children?