

Sode, importance and un-importance of a *sode* experience, LeGrand Baker

This week, Steve asked me, “From your writings it appears that you think everyone must have a *sode* experience. Is that what you believe.” That surprised me. But if Steve didn’t understand what I was trying to say, perhaps others didn’t either, so please let me clarify.

My response:

I do not believe everyone will, or ought to have, a *sode* experience. I know no evidence at all to suggest we should. To the contrary, I know many good people who have left this world, or who (like me) are getting ready to leave, who have not had a *sode* experience. That simple fact ought to be sufficient evidence that it is not necessary for everyone.

What I do believe is that one’s experiences must be compatible with one’s assignment. And a *sode* experience seems to be necessary for people who hold certain keys. (Don’t ask me to be more specific, because I don’t know.) The best example in the Old Testament is Isaiah ch. 6.

Jeremiah (23:18-22) identifies a *sode* experience as necessary for one to be a true prophet. Nephi begins his work by assuring us that both his father and himself have returned to the Council in Heaven, and have re-received their assignments from Jehovah. That is critical, because, using Jeremiah’s criteria, it testifies that Lehi and Nephi were true prophets.

I also believe that it is very important that the rest of us to know who we are. One can learn that through what the Spirit teaches one about the scriptures, one’s own patriarchal blessing, and the story that one learns in the temple. In a *sode* experience a prophet returns to the Council where his assignment is reviewed and God’s words to the people are put into his mouth. He is taught what he must do in this world, and what blessings he will receive afterward. The plan of salvation is a generic review of that same thing. Thus, as one comes to understand the plan of salvation, and visualizes its personalization in the temple, one learns one’s own autobiography - Council and creation, innocence, earth life, and beyond. For most of us, who do not hold any keys - or if we do, it is only temporarily - a dramatic portrayal of what one might learn in a *sode* experience is all that is necessary.

That, plus individual instructions from the Spirit, is sufficient for the huge majority of our Heavenly Father’s children to be able successfully to get through this earth life experience, and for one to fulfill one’s assignment here.

However, it is also my personal opinion that it is important for us to know what a *sode* experience is, and to understand how important the concept is in the scriptures. And also, understanding a *sode* experience helps one better understand the temple.