

Teacher's Supplement – King Mosiah Liberates His People

Procedure

Motivation/Introduction

Terms:

- accountability
- appeal
- equality
- government
- liberty
- monarchy
- populace
- righteous
- unrighteous

Background information:

King Mosiah- ruler in the land of Zarahemla

Place and Time: Land of Zarahemla about 91 years B.C.

Setting: King Mosiah is getting old and is searching for a successor to rule over his people. He is concerned about finding a righteous individual because he recognizes the problems a wicked leader would cause.

His sons, rightful heirs to the throne, refuse the kingdom because they desire to be missionaries among the Lamanites. King Mosiah devises a plan to change the government from a monarchy to one governed by judges. Mosiah drafts a letter to the people, explaining the benefits of his new plan.

Lesson Development

Qualities of a Righteous Leader

- Just (Is fair, honest, and does what is right)
- Rules according to God's laws (God fearing)
- Judges the people by God's commandments (Acknowledges God's authority)
- Is like King Benjamin (Sets a good example)
- Teaches God's commandments to his people (Loves God and loves people)
- Works to establish peace (Sense of duty)
- Works to eliminate fighting (Peace-loving)
- Works to eliminate stealing, plundering, murder, and all wickedness (No tolerance for sin)
- Punishes criminals according to God's laws (Accountability)

Qualities of an Unrighteous Leader

- Chooses wicked advisors (Self-seeking)
- Disregards God's laws (Dishonest, unruly)
- Removes good laws and makes bad ones (Unjust)
- Tolerates wickedness (Careless)
- Fights with those who oppose him (Murderer)
- Taxes people to get wealthy (Lazy, takes advantage)
- Punishes people who obey the laws (Lawless, wicked)
- Heavily protected by guards (Distrust)
- Takes a war to dethrone him (Powerful)

Government by the Voice of the People

- The populace assembles together in various places to vote.
- Higher judges and lower judges are elected.
- Judges are paid according to the hours they work.
- Laws instituted are God-given

- Complainants bring their cases before the judge.
- Judges hear the cases and determine the outcome.
- Law-breakers are punished according to their crimes.
- If a person feels he/she was unfairly judged, he/she can appeal to a higher judge or a group of lower judges for re-trial.
- Every person is given the same rights and privileges.

Suggestions/Scriptures for Further Study/ Exploration/ Extension of Topic

Suggestions for Further Study:

- Judges of Israel
- Laws given by God to Moses
- System of judges in the Old Testament

Church Education Online Lessons

- Righteousness
- America the Promised Land (the Decrees of God)