



CHURCH EDUCATION

The Holy Bible
The Book of Mormon



'...and they shall become one in thine hand.' Ezekiel 37.17

LESSON TITLE

The Significance of the Plates for Lehi's Descendants

- Part 2: Light Versus Darkness (Correct and Incorrect Traditions)

UNIT 4 - Hope and Restoration

GRADES Adult

HOLY BIBLE

Psalm 119:105, "NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

THE BOOK OF MORMON

1 Nephi 3:19, 20, "And behold, it is wisdom in God that we should obtain these records, that we may preserve unto our children the language of our fathers; and also that we may preserve unto them the words which have been spoken by the mouth of all the holy prophets, which have been delivered unto them by the spirit and power of God, since the world began, even down unto this present time."

OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Describe struggles encountered by Lehi's descendants to establish a righteous society, 600 B.C. - 34 A.D, despite having the knowledge on the plates of brass and Jaredite records, and Relate personally.
- Recognize lingering effects of apostasy on the House of Joseph today by comparing traditional beliefs/rituals to God's word.
- Recognize and Appreciate the benefits that restored knowledge (God's word) will have upon the House of Joseph, and Discuss ways to approach this work.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How would you describe the venture to establish a righteous society among Lehi's descendants in the promised land? Can you recall one or more challenges faced by believers?
- How is the knowledge of Lehi's descendants in 36 A.D. compared to their knowledge around 420 A.D.? What contributed to the demise of their society? What lingering effects of apostasy can be identified among the House of Joseph today?
- What benefits might be anticipated for the House of Joseph when they are instructed in truth and believe God's word wholeheartedly? How might one support this venture?

TEACHER NOTES

45-minute sessions. Divide into multiple sessions for in depth discussions.

To prepare for this lesson, study the scriptural references listed in **TEACHER'S SUPPLEMENT.**

Q = Teacher asks question

Note: The Church of Jesus Christ uses the Authorized King James Version of The Holy Bible and The Book of Mormon published by The Church

Definitions:

Heresy *n.* Belief or opinion contrary to orthodox religious doctrine.
Synonyms: blasphemy, apostasy, infidel, idolator, dissenter, unbeliever

Venture *n.* A risky or daring journey or undertaking.

MATERIALS

- Holy Bible and Book of Mormon
- **Google slides 39-69:** [The Significance of the Plates for Lehi's Descendants](#),
- **Resource for slide 60:** [Traditional Beliefs and Rituals of Indigenous Peoples](#),
- **Hymns:** Songs of Zion # 28, The Standard of Liberty. #102, If You Would Labor In Zion

PROCEDURE

Motivation/Introduction (5 minutes)

Slide 42: Goals:

- Describe struggles encountered by Lehi's descendants to establish a righteous society, 600 B.C. - 34 A.D, despite the knowledge on the plates, and relate personally.
- Recognize lingering effects of apostasy on the House of Joseph today by comparing traditional beliefs/rituals to God's word.
- Recognize and Appreciate the benefits that restored knowledge (God's word) will have upon the House of Joseph, and Discuss ways to approach this work.

Slide 43: Introduce Essential Questions

Slide 44: Review Part 1: Briefly recall/summarize key points of great spiritual knowledge given to Lehi's descendants from the brass and gold plates, e.g. Creation story, Prophecies, Plan of redemption, Decrees of God for America, Everlasting Covenant to Abraham, New Jerusalem, and equate to correct traditions (See Part 1: Light and Knowledge).

Slide 45: Define Terms: Heresy and Venture

Lesson Development (30-40 minutes per session)

(See Teacher's Supplement for Guidance, steps 1-5.)

1. **Slides 46-47:** Describe the difference between a Nephite and a Lamanite in light of Correct and Incorrect traditions (e.g. attitudes, beliefs...) 2 Nephi 5:20-24, Alma 2:11, 3:11,12.
2. **Slides 48-51:** Participants identify or recognize acts of heresy among the Nephites 600 B.C. to 33 A.D. that challenged the righteousness of

the church, and Relate personally. Teacher may prepare and present 2-3 acts of heresy, to facilitate discussion, as needed.

- a. Ask participants to (a) recall details about a threat to the stability of the church of God among the Nephites, and (b) describe God's authority upon the priesthood to confront the threat and restore peace and order. (See Scriptural Texts for examples. Select other scriptural examples to present at will.)

3. **Slides 52-59:** Using scriptural highlights, briefly Compare and Contrast the zenith of Nephite society and its demise 34 A.D.- 420 A.D. to demonstrate further the great knowledge given to the Nephites and the great spiritual decline that occurred (Light versus darkness).
4. **Slide 60:** Interpret lingering effects of the apostasy on the House of Joseph today by comparing/ contrasting Traditional beliefs/customs to God's word.
Note: This exercise is not intended to single out indigenous peoples traditional beliefs as uniquely incorrect; they are the target group of the lesson. (Catholicism would be another example of the effects of apostasy, and can be mentioned in comparison.)
5. **Slides 61-69:** Recognize and appreciate the great work of the Lord to restore the House of Joseph to the knowledge of truth. Using the scriptures, discuss ways to approach the work of restoring God's truth of Indigenous peoples.

Key words: Hope, restoration, God's Word, heresy, apostasy, restoration

Teacher's Supplement

Lesson Development

1. Describe Nephites vs Lamanites. Correct Traditions vs Incorrect Traditions.

Discussion Points: The distinction between Nephite and Lamanite is basically one who believes God's word and one who does not. They represent two churches - church of the lamb of God and church of the devil, respectively.

The terms Nephite and Lamanite originate with the names of Lehi's sons, but take on a broader meaning - Believer and Unbeliever - which extends beyond bloodline. The Nephites are those who practice correct traditions - after the order of God. They walk in light. The Lamanites are those who practice incorrect traditions handed down from their forefathers, and generally, not after the order of God. They walk in darkness.

Slide 46: Nephite = Believes God = Church of God/Christ

- Believe the warnings and revelations of God
- Observe the judgments, statutes, and commandments of the Lord in all things
- People of God
- Record keepers of history and sacred things
- Follow CORRECT TRADITIONS - God's word

Slide 47: Lamanite = Unbeliever = Church of Satan

- Rebel against God's word
- Seek to destroy the people of God
- Dwindle in unbelief
- Knows nothing concerning the word of God
- Follows INCORRECT TRADITIONS taught by their fathers - to hate the Nephites because they were wronged
- Cursed by God. Cut off from the presence of the Lord

2. Recognize Acts of Heresy among the Nephites:

Discussion Points: Heresies are influenced by Satan, and are a product of pride. Any challenge to God and His word is an act of heresy. The original heresy occurred when Satan desired to be like God..

Isaiah 14:13,14 "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High."

In Spite of having access to great spiritual truths, the Nephites were challenged from within and without by those who listened to the wrong spirit. The power and authority of God was evident with the priesthood when defending the Gospel and confronting those deceived by Satan. The priesthood diligently labored to restore people to the right way, and bring peace and order within the church/society.

Slides 48 - 50: List of heresies (See Scriptural Texts, pages 11-17. List is not conclusive.):

- Practice of Inequality, Jacob 2
- Practice of Adultery, Jacob 2
- Belief of There is no Christ, Jacob 7, Alma 30
- False Christs and Teachers, Words of Mormon
- Priestcraft, Alma 1
- Belief of All will be saved in the end, Alma 1
- Contention, fist fights, Alma 1
- Corruption in government, Alma 11
- Belief of No life after death, Alma 30.
- Men prosper by their own genius and strength, Alma 30
- Create one's own religion. Refuse to keep the commandments of God and to observe the performances of the Church of God, Alma 31
- Belief of Only a few elect will be saved, Alma 31

Q: How do we know these practices and/or beliefs identified above are false? Can you think of a scripture to refute them?

Q: How readily do we credit these acts as being influenced by Satan?

Q: What false doctrines challenge our church today? Our salvation today?

Slide 51: Discussion Point: During a time of great darkness, light comes into the world. 92 Year = 1 A.D. 600 Years from the time Lehi left Jerusalem.

3 Nephi 1:13, "...and on the morrow come I into the world, to show unto the world that **I will fulfill all that which I have caused to be spoken by the mouth of my holy prophets.**"

John 1:14, "And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth."

Q: What was the sign in the promised land to announce Jesus's arrival on earth? 3 Nephi 1:15,19, Continuous light for a day - a night - a day.

3. Compare and Contrast the Zenith of Nephite Society with its Demise. Light Versus Darkness.

Discussion Points: 34 A.D. The more righteous of Lehi's descendants, those who survived the destruction, became eyewitnesses to the truth and fulfillment of the prophecies concerning Christ after the crucifixion when Jesus appeared in the promised land.

36 A.D. All the people on the land, Nephites and Lamanites, became believers in Christ and united as one people. All the people practiced correct traditions - became people of God - were walking in the light.

Within 48 years, and in spite of the diligence of the priesthood to preach truth and endeavor to keep the Saints in the right way, Satan was able to influence the hearts of some to disbelieve and to become Lamanites again. After two generations (165 years), pride entered into the hearts of some, and the people became divided.

By **301 A.D.**...the whole society succumbed to the power of Satan, except a few faithful members of the church.

Even in the midst of great sorrow for his people, Mormon counsels his son, Moroni, to "labor diligently...to conquer the

enemy of all righteousness” Moroni 9:6.

420 A.D. Moroni seals the sacred records and buries them in the earth, there to remain for over 1000 years. A worldwide apostasy ensues, leaving people in spiritual darkness. Note the fulfillment of Alma’s prophecy about priestcraft and the entire destruction of the people (Alma 1:12).

Because of the influence of Satan upon the hearts of men and women, the people in the promised land dwindle in unbelief, not having access to Truth (God’s Word), and not having the faithful priesthood to instruct them (Having gone to their heavenly reward).

Slides 52-54: Proof of the truth of the Nephite traditions is confirmed when Christ appears in the Americas 34 A.D.

- **34 A.D. ALL** the people hear the voice of Christ - the woes of their unbelief, 3 Nephi chapters 9,10.
- **ALL** the people hear a voice from heaven and hear God speak, “Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified my name - hear ye him.” 3 Nephi 11:7
- **ALL** The people see a “Man descending out of heaven” clothed in a white robe. 3 Nephi 11:8
- **ALL** the people hear the man speak, “Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world. And behold, I am the light and the life of the world...” 3 Nephi 11:11
- Jesus tells them to come, “thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hand and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel,, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world.” And the people did. 3 Nephi 11:14,15
- Jesus gives Nephi, one of the disciples, “power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again ascended into heaven.” and he explains how to baptize. 3 Nephi 11:21
- He called twelve disciples and gave them authority to baptize and oversee His church in the land of America. He expounds his doctrine to all the people. 3 Nephi 12:1, chapters 12-15
- **36 A.D., ALL** the people in the land were converted unto the Lord, both Nephites and Lamanites. 4 Nephi 1:2. **ALL the people practice CORRECT TRADITIONS.**

Consequences of practicing CORRECT TRADITIONS

- Peace - No contentions and disputations, 4 Nephi 1:2
- Equality - all things common among them, 4 Nephi 1:3
- Manifestations of God’s power in the priesthood - great miracles. 4 Nephi 1:5
- Blessed in Marriage and Family, 4 Nephi 1:10,11
- Practiced the doctrine of Christ - fasted and prayed, met often to hear God’s word, 4 Nephi 1:12

Slides 55-57: Decline of the Nephite Society

- **84 A.D.** A few revolt from the church and become Lamanites. 4 Nephi 1:20
- **201 A.D.** Some became “Lifted up in pride” - Inequality/ Division, 4 Nephi 1:24
- Built up churches to get gain - priestcraft 4 Nephi 1:26
- **210 A.D.** “Many churches which professed to know the Christ, and yet they did deny the more parts of his gospel, insomuch that they did receive all manner of wickedness, and did administer that which was sacred unto him to whom it had been forbidden because of unworthiness.” 4 Nephi 1:27
- The heretic church “multiplied exceedingly because of iniquity, and because of the power of Satan who did get hold upon their hearts.” 4 Nephi 1:28
- **230 A.D.** All the people divide into Nephites and Lamanites again. 4 Nephi 1:35,36

- The wicked wax stronger the Nephites become proud and become vain like unto the Lamanites, 4 Nephi 1:43.
- **301 A.D.** Nephites and Lamanites are equally wicked. 4 Nephi 1:45.
- **320 A.D.** Ammaron is constrained by the Holy Ghost to hide the sacred records 4 Nephi 1:48.
- Mormon becomes custodian of the plates.
- Wickedness prevails upon the land: sorceries, witchcrafts and magics, Mormon 1:13,19. **The majority of people practiced incorrect traditions.**

Slide 58: Demise of Nephite Society

Mormon's Lament -

"O the depravity of my people! They are without order and without mercy..." **Moroni 9:18.**

"...They have become strong in their perversions; and they are alike brutal, sparing none, ..." Moroni 9:19.

"...I dwell no longer upon this horrible scene..." **Moroni 9:20.**

Slide 59: Demise of Nephite Society

Approx. 345 A.D. Mormon delivers the plates to his son Moroni. Words of Mormon 1:1.

420 A.D. Moroni buries the sacred record in the ground. Moroni 10:1,2.

Dark Ages ensue for over 1000 years.

Revelation 12:5,6 [5] " And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: **and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.**

[6] **And the woman fled into the wilderness**, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there **a thousand two hundred and threescore days.**"

4. Slide 60: Interpret Lingering Effects of Apostasy on Lehi's Descendants by Comparing Traditional Beliefs of Indigenous People with God's Word.

Discussion Points: Consider the love and concern for the welfare of the souls of their brethren, the Nephite teachers and priests had for those who were raised and/or fell into spiritual darkness (Jacob 2:3, Alma 31:24,30-35). Many in spiritual darkness were deceived by Satan, not knowing, and sincerely believing that they were in the right and/or that they were being faithful to God. It's no different today. Indigenous peoples in the Americas practice traditional ways, sincerely thinking that they are doing right by the Creator. Traditional beliefs have been passed down orally, for centuries, by respected elders/spiritual leaders in the tribe.

Traditional beliefs of indigenous peoples in the Americas are steeped in mythology and idolatry, e.g. Mother Earth, Father Sun, Changing Woman, Pahana (Lost White Brother), Maasaw, Kachinas, etc. Traditionalists' beliefs emerged from the world-wide apostasy era. The beliefs are earthly focused; they don't point to heaven or Christ. Traditionalists may use terms found in the scriptures, but they apply different meanings/interpretations (e.g. Great Spirit, Creator).

Some indigenous people, who profess Christianity, may not know of the mythological ties in traditional rituals, and participate in these ceremonies unsuspectingly.

- a. Present a few traditional beliefs or customs and ask participants to compare with God's word. Cite scriptures to support.

- b. Participants gain an appreciation of the truth that is to be restored to the House of Joseph, and consider how this knowledge will benefit their lives.

Q: How do Native American Traditionalists' beliefs and/or rituals compare to God's word?

Q: Can you think of a spiritual term that is interpreted differently among Traditionalists as compared to Christians? What care should be taken when making comparisons with traditional beliefs and Christian beliefs?

Q: Can we appreciate the value that the light of God's word has for indigenous peoples?

5. Recognize and Appreciate the Great Work of the Lord to Restore the House of Joseph to the Knowledge of Truth

Discussion Points: God desires a relationship with Man. The Church of Jesus Christ believes in the restoration of the relationship between mankind and God. A restored relationship comes by exposure and obedience to light (true knowledge) - the full Gospel of Jesus Christ. The modern day descendants of Lehi must be exposed to light (God's word and revelations of the Holy Spirit) to be convinced of the true and right way to be restored to God. The Church's mission is to bring this light to indigenous peoples in the Americas, and to the entire world.

1 Nephi 13:35-37: [35] "For, behold, saith the Lamb: I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; and after thy seed shall be destroyed, and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren, behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles, by the gift and power of the Lamb. [36] **And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation.** [37] **And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost;** and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be. [38] And it came to pass that I beheld the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the book of the Lamb of God, which had proceeded forth from the mouth of the Jew, that it came forth from the Gentiles unto the remnant of the seed of my brethren. [39] And after it had come forth unto them I beheld other books, which came forth by the power of the Lamb, from the Gentiles unto them, **unto the convincing of the Gentiles and the remnant of the seed of my brethren, and also the Jews who were scattered upon all the face of the earth, that the records of the prophets and of the twelve apostles of the Lamb are true.** [40] And the angel spake unto me, saying: These last records, which thou hast seen among the Gentiles, shall establish the truth of the first, which are of the twelve apostles of the Lamb, and shall make known the plain and precious things which have been taken away from them; and shall make known to all kindreds, tongues, and people, **that the Lamb of God is the Son of the Eternal Father, and the Savior of the world; and that all men must come unto him, or they cannot be saved.** [41] And they must come according to the words which shall be established by the mouth of the Lamb; and the words of the Lamb shall be made known in the records of thy seed, as well as in the records of the twelve apostles of the Lamb; wherefore they both shall be established in one; for there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth. [42] And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles; and after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles, then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles and also unto the Jews, and the last shall be first, and the first shall be last."

Slide 61: God's Promises extended to the Lamanites:

Alma 9:16,17, [16] “For there are many promises which are extended to the Lamanites; for it is because of the traditions of their fathers that caused them to remain in their state of ignorance; therefore **the Lord will be merciful unto them and prolong their existence in the land.** [17] **And at some period of time they will be brought to believe in his word, and to know of the incorrectness of the traditions of their fathers;** and many of them will be saved, for the Lord will be merciful unto all who call on his name.”

Slide 62: Moroni's plea to future generations:

420 A.D.

Moroni 10:30-32 [30] “I would exhort you to **come unto Christ**, and lay **hold upon every good gift**, and **touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing.** [31]... Awake, and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion; and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, **that thou mayest no more be confounded**, that the covenants of the Eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, House of Israel, may be fulfilled. [32] Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and **deny yourselves of all ungodliness**; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and **love God with all your might, mind and strength**, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in nowise deny the power of God...”

Slide 63: Exposure to God's Word. Saints fast and pray

Alma 6:5,6 [5] “Now I would that ye should understand that **the word of God was liberal unto all**, that none were deprived of the privilege of assembling themselves together to hear the word of God.” [6] “Nevertheless **the children of God were commanded that they should gather themselves together oft, and join in fasting and mighty prayer in behalf of the welfare of the souls of those who knew not God.**”

Slide 64: Saints Pray for Laborers

Luke 10:2 “Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: **pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.**”

Romans 10:13-15 [13] “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. [14] How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and **how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?** [15] **And how shall they preach, except they be sent?** as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Slide 65: God Does the Building

Psalms 127:1 “**Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.**”

Slide 66: Willing Workers

Matthew 10:6,8 [6] “But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” [8] “... **freely ye have received, freely give.**”

1 Nephi 13:37 “And **blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion** at that day, for **they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost**; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and **whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.**”

Slide 67: Share Your Testimony

Mosiah 27:32 “And now it came to pass that **Alma began from this time forward to teach the people, and those who were with Alma** at the time the angel appeared unto them, traveling round about through all the land, **publishing to all the people the things which they had heard and seen**, and preaching the word of God in much tribulation, being greatly persecuted by those who were unbelievers, being smitten by many of them.”

Mosiah 28:3 “Now **they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature**, for they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to quake and tremble.”

Slide 68: Demonstrate Love and Loyalty

Alma 17: 21-25 [21] “And thus Ammon was carried before the king who was over the land of Ishmael; and his name was Lamoni; and he was a descendant of Ishmael. [22] And the king inquired of Ammon if it were his desire to dwell in the land among the Lamanites, or among his people. [23] And Ammon said unto him: **Yea, I desire to dwell among this people for a time; yea, and perhaps until the day I die.** [24] And it came to pass that king Lamoni was much pleased with Ammon, and caused that his bands should be loosed; and he would that Ammon should take one of his daughters to wife. [25] But Ammon said unto him: Nay, but **I will be thy servant**. Therefore Ammon became a servant to king Lamoni. And it came to pass that he was set among other servants to watch the flocks of Lamoni, according to the custom of the Lamanites.”

Alma 20:26,27 [26] “And when he saw that **Ammon had no desire to destroy him**, and when **he also saw the great love he had for his son Lamoni**, he was astonished exceedingly, and said: Because this is all that thou hast desired, that I would release thy brethren, and suffer that my son Lamoni should retain his kingdom, behold, I will grant unto you that my son may retain his kingdom from this time and forever; and I will govern him no more – [27] And I will also grant unto thee that thy brethren may be cast out of prison, **and thou and thy brethren may come unto me, in my kingdom; for I shall greatly desire to see thee**. For the king was greatly astonished at the words which he had spoken, and also at the words which had been spoken by his son Lamoni, therefore he was desirous to learn them.”

Slide 69: Create Understandings

Alma 18:24-32, 36 [24] “And Ammon began to speak unto him with boldness, and said unto him: **Believest thou that there is a God?** [25] And he answered, and said unto him: **I do not know what that meaneth.** [26] And then Ammon said: **Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit?** [27] And he said, **Yea.** [28] And Ammon said: **This is God.** And Ammon said unto him again: **Believest thou that this Great Spirit, who is God, created all things which are in heaven and in the earth?** [29] And he said: **Yea, I believe that he created all things which are in the earth; but I do not know the heavens.** [30] And Ammon said unto him: **The heavens is a place where God dwells and all his holy angels.** [31] And king Lamoni said: **Is it above the earth?** [32] And Ammon said: **Yea, and he looketh**

down upon all the children of men; and he knows all the thoughts and intents of the heart; for by his hand were they all created from the beginning..."

Alma 18:36 "Now when Ammon had said these words, he began at the creation of the world, and also the creation of Adam, and told him all the things concerning the fall of man, **and rehearsed and laid before him the records and the holy scriptures of the people**, which had been spoken by the prophets, even down to the time that their father, Lehi, left Jerusalem."

NEPHITES AND LAMANITES - CORRECT VERSUS INCORRECT TRADITIONS

Nephites

2 Nephi 5:6, 9,10

[6] Wherefore, it came to pass that I, Nephi, did take my family, and also Zoram and his family, and Sam, mine elder brother and his family, and Jacob and Joseph, my younger brethren, and also my sisters, and all those who would go with me. **And all those who would go with me were those who believed in the warnings and the revelations of God; wherefore, they did hearken unto my words.**

[9] And all those who were with me did take upon them to call themselves the people of Nephi.

[10] And we did observe to keep the judgments, and the statutes, and the commandments of the Lord in all things according to the law of Moses.

Jacob 1:14

[14] But I, Jacob, shall not hereafter distinguish them by these names, but I shall call them **Lamanites that seek to destroy the people of Nephi, and those who are friendly to Nephi I shall call Nephites**, or the people of Nephi, according to the reigns of the kings.

Alma 2:11

[11] Now the people of Amlici were distinguished by the name of Amlici, being called Amlicites; and the remainder were **called Nephites, or the people of God.**

Alma 3:11,12

[11] And it came to pass that whosoever would not believe in the tradition of the Lamanites, but **believed those records which were brought out of the land of Jerusalem, and also in the tradition of their fathers, which were correct, who believed in the commandments of God and kept them, were called the Nephites, or the people of Nephi, from that time forth --**

[12] And it is **they who have kept the records which are true of their people, and also of the people of the Lamanites.**

Lamanites

1 Nephi 2:18,21

[18] But, behold, Laman and Lemuel **would not hearken** unto my words; and being grieved because of the **hardness of their hearts** I cried unto the Lord for them.

[21] And **inasmuch as thy brethren shall rebel against thee, they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.**

2 Nephi 5:20-24

[20] Wherefore, the word of the Lord was fulfilled which he spake unto me, saying that: Inasmuch as they will not hearken unto thy words they shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord. **And behold, they were cut off from his presence.**

[21] And he had caused the **cursing to come upon them**, yea, even a sore cursing, **because of their iniquity**. For behold, they had hardened their hearts against him, that they had become like unto a flint; wherefore, as they were white, and exceedingly fair and delightsome, that they might not be enticing unto my people the Lord God did cause a skin of blackness to come upon them.

[22] And thus saith the Lord God: I will cause that they shall be loathsome unto thy people, save they shall repent of their iniquities.

[23] And **cursed shall be the seed of him that mixeth with their seed**; for they shall be cursed even with the same cursing. And the Lord spake it, and it was done.

[24] And because of their cursing which was upon them they **did become an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety**, and did seek in the wilderness for beasts of prey.

Mosiah 1:5

[5] I say unto you, my sons, were it not for these things, which have been kept and preserved by the hand of God, that we might read and understand of his mysteries, and have his commandments always before our eyes, that even our fathers would have **dwindled in unbelief**, and we should have been like unto our brethren, the **Lamanites, who know nothing concerning these things, or even do not believe them when they are taught them, because of the traditions of their fathers, which are not correct.**

Alma 3:6

[6] And the skins of the Lamanites were dark, according to the mark which was set upon their fathers, which was a **curse upon them because of their transgression and their rebellion against their brethren, who consisted of Nephi, Jacob, and Joseph, and Sam, who were just and holy men.**

ACTS OF HERESY

Inequality

Jacob 2:13,14,21

[13] And the hand of providence hath smiled upon you most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches; and because some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren **ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts, and wear stiff necks and high heads** because of the costliness of your apparel, and **persecute your brethren** because ye **suppose that ye are better than they.**

[14] And now, my brethren, do ye suppose that God justifieth you in this thing? Behold, I say unto you, Nay. **But he condemneth you, and if ye persist in these things his judgments must speedily come unto you.**

[21] **Do ye not suppose that such things are abominable unto him who created all flesh?** And the one being is as precious in his sight as the other. And all flesh is of the dust; and for the selfsame end hath he created them, that they should keep his commandments and glorify him forever.

Alma 30:7

[7] Now there was no law against a man's belief; for **it was strictly contrary to the commands of God that there should be a law which should bring men on to unequal grounds.**

Adultery - Whoredoms

Jacob 2:23,24,33,34

[23] But the word of God burdens me because of your **grosser crimes**. For behold, thus saith the Lord: This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for **they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms**, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son.

[24] Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, **which thing was abominable before me**, saith the Lord.

[33] For they shall not lead away captive the daughters of my people because of their tenderness, save **I shall visit them with a sore curse, even unto destruction**; for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of old, saith the Lord of Hosts.

[34] And now behold, my brethren, ye know that these commandments were given to our father, Lehi; wherefore, ye have known them before; and ye have come unto great condemnation; for ye have done these things which ye ought not to have done.

Anti-Christ - Dissenters

Jacob 7:1-3,8,19-21: Sherem and Jacob

[1] And now it came to pass after some years had passed away, there came a man among the people of Nephi, whose name was Sherem.

[2] And it came to pass that he **began to preach among the people, and to declare unto them that there should be no Christ.** And he **preached many things which were flattering** unto the people; and this he did that he might overthrow the doctrine of Christ.

[3] And he labored diligently that he might lead away the hearts of the people, insomuch that he did lead away many hearts; and he knowing that I, Jacob, had faith in Christ who should come, he sought much opportunity that he might come unto me.

[8] But behold, the **Lord God poured in his Spirit into my soul, insomuch that I did confound him in all his words.**

[19] And he said: I fear lest **I have committed the unpardonable sin, for I have lied unto God; for I denied the Christ, and said that I believed the scriptures;** and they truly testify of him. And because I have thus lied unto God I greatly fear lest my case shall be awful; but I confess unto God.

[20] And it came to pass that when he had said these words he could say no more, and he gave up the ghost.

[21] **And when the multitude had witnessed that he spake these things as he was about to give up the ghost, they were astonished exceedingly; insomuch that the power of God came down upon them, and they were overcome that they fell to the earth.**

Alma 30:12,17,18, 30,31, 39-42, 48-53: Korihor and Alma

[12] And this Anti-Christ, whose name was Korihor, (and the law could have no hold upon him) began to **preach unto the people that there should be no Christ.** And after this manner did he preach, saying:

[17] And many more such things did he say unto them, telling them that **there could be no atonement made for the sins of men, but every man fared in this life according to the management of the creature;** therefore **every man prospered according to his genius,** and that **every man conquered according to his strength;** and **whatsoever a man did was no crime.**

[18] And thus he did preach unto them, leading away the hearts of many, causing them to lift up their heads in their wickedness, yea, leading away many women, and also men, to commit whoredoms -- **telling them that when a man was dead, that was the end thereof.**

[30] And it came to pass that when he was brought before Alma and the chief judge, he did go on in the same manner as he did in the land of Gideon; yea, **he went on to blaspheme.**

[31] And he did rise up in great swelling words before Alma, and did revile against the priests and teachers, accusing them of leading away the people after the silly traditions of their fathers, for the sake of glutting on the labors of the people.

[39] Now Alma said unto him: **Will ye deny again that there is a God, and also deny the Christ?** For behold, I say unto you, I know there is a God, and also that Christ shall come.

[40] And now what evidence have ye that there is no God, or that Christ cometh not? I say unto you that ye have none, save it be your word only.

[41] But, behold, I have all things as a testimony that these things are true; and ye also have all things as a testimony unto you that they are true; and will ye deny them? Believest thou that these things are true?

[42] Behold, **I know that thou believest, but thou art possessed with a lying spirit, and ye have put off the Spirit of God** that it may have no place in you; but the devil has power over you, and he doth carry you about, working devices that he may destroy the children of God.

[48] Now Korihor said unto him: I do not deny the existence of a God, but I do not believe that there is a God; and I say also, that ye do not know that there is a God; and except ye show me a sign, I will not believe.

[49] Now Alma said unto him: **This will I give unto thee for a sign, that thou shalt be struck dumb, according to my words; and I say, that in the name of God, ye shall be struck dumb, that ye shall no more have utterance.**

[50] Now when Alma had said these words, Korihor was struck dumb, that he could not have utterance, according to the words of Alma.

[51] And now when the chief judge saw this, he put forth his hand and wrote unto Korihor, saying: Art thou convinced of the power of God? In whom did ye desire that Alma should show forth his sign? Would ye that he should afflict others, to show unto thee a sign? Behold, he has showed unto you a sign; and now will ye dispute more?

[52] And Korihor put forth his hand and wrote, saying: I know that I am dumb, for I cannot speak; and I know that nothing save it were the power of God could bring this upon me; yea, and I always knew that there was a God.

[53] But behold, **the devil hath deceived me; for he appeared unto me in the form of an angel, and said unto me: Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone astray after an unknown God. And he said unto me: There is no God; yea, and he taught me that which I should say.** And I have taught his words; and I taught them because they were **pleasing unto the carnal mind**; and I taught them, even until I had much success, insomuch that I verily believed that they were true; and for this cause **I withstood the truth**, even until I have brought this great curse upon me.

Words of Mormon 1:15-18: Days of King Benjamin

[15] And it came to pass that after there had been **false Christs, and their mouths had been shut, and they punished according to their crimes**;

[16] And after there had been **false prophets, and false preachers and teachers** among the people, and all these having been punished according to their crimes; and after there having been much contention and many dissensions away unto the Lamanites, behold, it came to pass that king Benjamin, with the assistance of the holy prophets who were among his people --

[17] For behold, king Benjamin was a holy man, and he did reign over his people in righteousness; and there were **many holy men in the land, and they did speak the word of God with power and with authority; and they did use much sharpness because of the stiffneckedness of the people --**

[18] Wherefore, with the help of these, king Benjamin, **by laboring with all the might of his body and the faculty of his whole soul, and also the prophets, did once more establish peace in the land.**

Alma 31:8-18, 25,26, 36-38: Zoramites and Alma

[8] Now the Zoramites were dissenters from the Nephites; therefore they had had the word of God preached unto them.

[9] But they had fallen into great errors, for they **would not observe to keep the commandments of God, and his statutes**, according to the law of Moses.

[10] **Neither would they observe the performances of the church**, to continue in prayer and supplication to God daily, that they might not enter into temptation.

[11] Yea, in fine, **they did pervert the ways of the Lord in very many instances**; therefore, for this cause, Alma and his brethren went into the land to preach the word unto them.

[12] Now, when they had come into the land, behold, to their astonishment they found that the Zoramites had built synagogues, and that they did gather themselves together on one day of the week, which day they did call the day of the Lord; and they did worship after a manner which Alma and his brethren had never beheld;

[13] For they had a place built up in the center of their synagogue, a place for standing, which was high above the head, and the top thereof would only admit one person.

[14] Therefore, whosoever desired to worship must go forth and stand upon the top thereof, and stretch forth his hands towards heaven, and cry with a loud voice, saying:

[15] Holy, holy God; we believe that thou art God, and we believe that thou art holy, and that thou wast a spirit, and that thou art a spirit, and that thou wilt be a spirit forever.

[16] Holy God, we believe that thou hast separated us from our brethren; and we do not believe in the tradition of our brethren, which was handed down to them by the childishness of their fathers; but we believe that **thou hast elected us to be thy holy children; and also thou hast made it known unto us that there shall be no Christ.**

[17] But thou art the same yesterday, today, and forever; and thou hast elected us that we shall be saved, whilst all around us are elected to be cast by thy wrath down to hell; for the which holiness, O God, we thank thee; and we also thank thee that thou hast elected us, that we may not be led away after the foolish traditions of our brethren, which doth bind them down to a belief of Christ, which doth lead their hearts to wander far from thee, our God.

[26] And he lifted up his voice to heaven, and cried, saying: **O, how long, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that thy servants shall dwell here below in the flesh, to behold such gross wickedness among the children of men?**

[36] **Now it came to pass that when Alma had said these words, that he clapped his hands upon all them who were with him. And behold, as he clapped his hands upon them, they were filled with the Holy Spirit.**

[37] And after that they did separate themselves one from another, taking no thought for themselves what they should eat, or what they should drink, or what they should put on.

[38] And the Lord provided for them that they should hunger not, neither should they thirst; yea, and he also gave them strength, that they should suffer no manner of afflictions, save it were swallowed up in the joy of Christ. Now this was according to the prayer of Alma; and this because he prayed in faith.

Priestcraft - Contention

Alma 1:2-6, 9-14: Alma and Nehor

[2] And it came to pass that in the first year of the reign of Alma in the judgment-seat, there was a man brought before him to be judged, a man who was large, and was noted for his much strength.

[3] And he had gone about among the people, **preaching to them that which he termed to be the word of God, bearing down against the church; declaring unto the people that every priest and teacher ought to become popular; and they ought not to labor with their hands, but that they ought to be supported by the people.**

[4] And he also testified unto the people that **all mankind should be saved at the last day**, and that they need not fear nor tremble, but that they might lift up their heads and rejoice; for the Lord had created all men, and had also redeemed all men; and, in the end, all men should have eternal life.

[5] And it came to pass that he did teach these things so much that many did believe on his words, even so many that they began to support him and give him money.

[6] And he began to be **lifted up in the pride of his heart**, and to wear very costly apparel, yea, and even began to establish a church after the manner of his preaching.

[9] Now, because Gideon withstood him with the words of God he was wroth with Gideon, and drew his sword and began to smite him. Now Gideon being stricken with many years, therefore he was not able to withstand his blows, therefore he was slain by the sword.

[10] And the man who slew him was taken by the people of the church, and was **brought before Alma, to be judged according to the crimes which he had committed.**

[11] And it came to pass that he stood before Alma and pleaded for himself with much boldness.

[12] But Alma said unto him: Behold, **this is the first time that priestcraft has been introduced among this people. And behold, thou art not only guilty of priestcraft, but hast endeavored to enforce it by the sword; and were priestcraft to be enforced among this people it would prove their entire destruction.**

[13] And thou hast **shed the blood of a righteous man**, yea, a man who has done much good among this people; and were we to spare thee his blood would come upon us for vengeance.

[14] Therefore **thou art condemned to die**, according to the law which has been given us by Mosiah, our last king; and it has been acknowledged by this people; therefore this people must abide by the law.

Alma 1:22-28: The Church and Alma

[22] Nevertheless, there were **many among them who began to be proud**, and **began to contend warmly with their adversaries**, even unto blows; yea, they would smite one another with their fists.

[23] Now this was in the second year of the reign of Alma, and it was a cause of much affliction to the church; yea, it was the cause of much trial with the church.

[24] For the **hearts of many were hardened**, and their names were blotted out, that they were remembered no more **among the people of God**. And also many withdrew themselves from among them.

[25] Now this was a great trial to those that did stand fast in the faith; nevertheless, **they were steadfast and immovable in keeping the commandments of God**, and they bore with patience the persecution which was heaped upon them.

[26] And when the priests left their labor to impart the word of God unto the people, the people also left their labors to **hear the word of God**. And when the priest had imparted unto them the word of God they all returned again diligently unto their labors; and the priest, not esteeming himself above his hearers, for the preacher was no better than the hearer, neither was the teacher any better than the learner; and thus they were all equal, and they did all labor, every man according to his strength.

[27] And they did impart of their substance, every man according to that which he had, to the poor, and the needy, and the sick, and the afflicted; and they did not wear costly apparel, yet they were neat and comely.

[28] And thus **they did establish the affairs of the church; and thus they began to have continual peace again**, notwithstanding all their persecutions.

Alma 11:3,20: Alma and Amulek and the lawyers (Corruption in government)

[3] And the judge received for his wages according to his time -- a senine of gold for a day, or a senum of silver, which is equal to a senine of gold; and this is according to the law which was given.

[20] Now, **it was for the sole purpose to get gain**, because they received their wages according to their employ, therefore, **they did stir up the people to riotings, and all manner of disturbances and wickedness**, that they might have more employ, that they might get money according to the suits which were brought before them; therefore they did stir up the people against Alma and Amulek.

Alma 12:3-7: Alma and Zeezrom

[3] Now Zeezrom, seeing that thou hast been taken in thy lying and craftiness, for **thou hast not lied unto men only but thou hast lied unto God**; for behold, he knows all thy thoughts, and thou seest that **thy thoughts are made known unto us by his Spirit**;

[4] And thou seest that **we know that thy plan was a very subtle plan**, as to the subtlety of the devil, for to lie and to deceive this people that thou mightest set them against us, to revile us and to cast us out --

[5] Now this was a plan of thine adversary, and he hath exercised his power in thee. Now I **would that ye should remember that what I say unto thee I say unto all**.

[6] And behold I say unto you all that **this was a snare of the adversary**, which he has laid to catch this people, that he might bring you into subjection unto him, that he might encircle you about with his chains, **that he might chain you down to everlasting destruction**, according to the power of his captivity.

[7] Now when Alma had spoken these words, Zeezrom began to tremble more exceedingly, for **he was convinced more and more of the power of God**; and he was also convinced that Alma and Amulek had a knowledge of him, for **he was convinced that they knew the thoughts and intents of his heart; for power was given unto them that they might know of these things according to the spirit of prophecy**.