

WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF MORMON TEACH?

Class 3

Language and Learning



Colbern Rd. Sunday School

January 24, 2021

Series: What Does The Book of Mormon Teach?

Class 03

Colbern Road Class Notes at:

<http://www.RestoredGospel.com/classNotes/Colbern2021/>



We've been discussing 1 Nephi 1:1

Nephi writes in the ways of his Father Lehi
which consists of two things...

First Verse of the Book of Mormon sets stage

1 Nephi 1:1

I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore, I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father.

And having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days,

Yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God,

Therefore, I make a record of my proceedings in my days.

Yea, **I make a record in the language of my father,**

which consists of the learning of the Jews,

and the language of the Egyptians;

Today we begin to discuss 'The Learning of the Jews'

1 Nephi 1:1

I, Nephi, having been born of goodly parents, therefore, I was taught somewhat in all the learning of my father.

And having seen many afflictions in the course of my days, nevertheless, having been highly favored of the Lord in all my days,

Yea, having had a great knowledge of the goodness and the mysteries of God,

Therefore, I make a record of my proceedings in my days.

Yea, I make a record in the language of my father,

which consists of **the learning of the Jews,**

and the language of the Egyptians;

Last Week....

This word is....El Shaddai

Hebrews Understood this 'to nourish'

The word “שׁד” (teat) is often coupled with the word “אֵל” (mighty, strong) creating the phrase “אֵל שׁד” (el shaddai) literally meaning the “mighty teat,” hence we can see the translator’s reluctance to literally translate this phrase in this manner and instead using the more sanitized “God Almighty.”

(Review from last week)

Ancient word for God—who nourishes

Remember, Hebrews saw a pencil and thought not yellow object, but writes words (function).

El Shaddai appears only few times, one is in the blessing of JOSEPH (Nephi is a descendent of Joseph)

This is God referred to as El Shaddai—the one who nourishes

But what does Book of Mormon say??

1 Nephi 5

56 And we did travail and wade through much affliction in the wilderness;
And our women bore children in the wilderness;

57 And so great were the blessings of the Lord upon us that while we did live upon raw meat in the wilderness,

our women did give plenty of suck for their children and were strong,
yea, even like unto the men.

And they began to bear their journeyings without murmuring.

=

But what does Book of Mormon say??

1 Nephi 5:

58 And thus we see that the commandments of God must be fulfilled;

59 And if it so be that the children of men keep the commandments of God, He doth nourish them and strengthen them and provide ways and means whereby they can accomplish the thing which He hath commanded them;

60 Wherefore, He did provide ways and means for us while we did sojourn in the wilderness.

What we are reading is
Parallelism

Note Parallelism.

Parallel of Physical to Spiritual

- (earthly) children
- (Eternal) Children of Men

Parallel of Women and God

- Women and Breastmilk
- God's ancient name (El Shaddai—literally 'the breast' the one who nourishes)

Parallel of Breastmilk's Sufficiency

- Children were completely nourished
- God Completely nourishes

El Shaddai conveyed the idea of SUFFICIENCY.

Total dependence, but total reliance without concern

Hebrew word for “**Blameless**” is an **INFANT AT THE BREAST**

Blameless, innocent, the one who is fed only from its mother’s milk,
is the one spiritual comparison
to one that relies solely on our Heavenly Father,
one who lives without sin.

Ancient Hebrew Word for Blameless is a child at the breast.

Notice King Benjamin's words use the definition:

[Mosiah 1:122](#)

And behold when that time cometh,
none shall be found **blameless before God,**
except it be little children,

Only through repentance
and faith on the name of the Lord God Omnipotent.

Total Reliance

Nephi shares this as they are embarking on a journey of total reliance.

Parallel of Breastmilk's Sufficiency

- Children were completely nourished
- God completely nourishes

His response, our GOD IS TOTALLY SUFFICIENT.

- A breastfeeding mother can not forget she has a nursing child.
- God can not forget to meet your needs.
- HE IS THE ONE WHO MAKES THIS COMPARISON of HIMSELF to prove to us his promise.

The Entire Book of Mormon
Teaches Using
Parallelism

The Entire Book of Mormon Teaches

Using
Parallelism

Not just parallel WORDS, but IDEAS

Notice the use of the word 'Parallel' (and all the parallels)

3 Nephi 11:33

...If they be **good**,
to the **resurrection of everlasting life**,
And if they be **evil**,
to the **resurrection of damnation**,
Being on a parallel.

The **one** on the **one hand**,
and the **other** on the **other hand** –
According to the **mercy** and the **justice**
and the **holiness which is in Christ**,
which was before the world began.

Notice the use of the word 'Parallel' (and all the parallels)

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and the **other** on the **other hand** –
According to the **mercy** and the **justice**
and the **holiness which is in Christ**,
which was before the world began.

The Book of Mormon
Answers a VITAL Question...

Why is Life so.....

Hard?(!)

The Book of Mormon
Answers a VITAL Question...

Why can life stink
sometimes?

Actually a far reaching and profound answer

Genesis 3:9 (Inspired Version) Genesis 3:2-3 (King James)

And the woman said unto the serpent,
We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden;
but of the fruit of the tree which thou beholdest in the midst of the garden,

God hath said,
Ye shall not eat of it,
neither shall ye touch it
lest ye die.

Ravi—Video and Question regarding the Tree

Fill in the missing word...

[2 Nephi 1:81](#)

For it must needs be that there is an _____ in all things;

Opposition...

2 Nephi 1:81

For it must needs be that there is an opposition in all things;

But WHY???

SO THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS CAN OCCUR!!

...BECAUSE THERE COULDN'T BE SALVATION
WITHOUT IT...

Opposition MUST EXIST...FOR SALVATION TO EXIST

2 Nephi 1:80-81

Wherefore, the ends of the law which the Holy One hath given –
unto the **inflicting** of the **punishment** which is affixed,
Which **punishment** that is affixed is in **opposition**
to that of the **happiness** which is **affixed**
to answer the ends of the atonement.

For it must needs be that there is an **opposition** in all things;

Opposition MUST EXIST...FOR SALVATION TO EXIST

2 Nephi 1:80-81

to answer the ends of the atonement.

For it must needs be that there is an **opposition** in all things;

82 If not so, my firstborn in the wilderness, **righteousness could not be brought to pass** - neither wickedness, neither holiness, nor misery, neither good, nor bad.

Perhaps the most important Scripture putting the adversity of life in perspective.

2 Nephi 1:82

If not so, my firstborn in the wilderness,
righteousness could not be brought to pass
neither **wickedness**,
neither **holiness** nor **misery**,
neither **good** nor **bad**.

Opposition MUST EXIST...FOR SALVATION TO EXIST

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unto the **inflicting** of the **punishment** which is affixed,
Which **punishment** that is affixed is in **opposition**
to that of the **happiness** which is **affixed**
to answer the ends of the atonement.

For it must needs be that there is an **opposition** in all things;

82 If not so, my firstborn in the wilderness, righteousness could not be brought to pass - neither wickedness, neither holiness, nor misery, neither good, nor bad.

Opposition MUST EXIST...FOR SALVATION TO EXIST

2 Nephi 1:83-86

Wherefore, all things must needs be a compound in one.

Wherefore, if it should be **one body**,
it must needs remain as dead having no **life** neither **death**
nor corruption nor incorruption,
nor **happiness**, nor **misery**,
neither **sense**, nor **insensibility**;

Wherefore, it must needs have been created for a thing of naught;

Wherefore, there would have been no purpose in the end of its creation;

Opposition MUST EXIST...FOR SALVATION TO EXIST

I am beginning to understand that **pre-baptismal classes need to start with this concept.**

WHY?

It explains the reason life is the way it is.

In other words,
RIGHTEOUSNESS COULD NOT OCCUR

**WITHOUT A PRESENCE OR OPPORTUNITY
FOR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**

In other words, RIGHTEOUSNESS COULD NOT OCCUR WITHOUT A PRESENCE OR OPPORTUNITY FOR UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

Not just that it is present, it must be present.

There must be a balance... with your ability to make unrestricted choice.

....Free Speech

Need to accept the possibility for unrighteousness in order to have righteousness.

We need to opposition in order to choose righteousness.

For me to live in a country where correct ideas can flow freely,
need to be the ability to express dumb ideas, and need to accept it
when they occur.

Lehi teaches truth deeper than we see on the surface

Opposition—First taught in context of punishment and happiness. Not physics.

[2 Nephi 1:80](#) "Wherefore, the ends of the law which the Holy One hath given - unto the inflicting of the punishment, which is affixed, Which punishment that is affixed is in **opposition** to that of the happiness, which is affixed - to answer the ends of the atonement.

[2 Nephi 1:81](#) "For it must needs be that there is an **opposition** in all things;

[2 Nephi 1:97](#) "And to bring about His eternal purposes in the end of man - After that He had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field, and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created - It must needs be that there was an **opposition**,

[2 Nephi 1:98](#) Even the forbidden fruit in **opposition** to the tree of life, the one being sweet and the other bitter;

The Reason For the Opposition

2 Nephi 1:81

For it must needs be that there is an **opposition** in all things;

THE REASON WHY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CONNECTION TO THIS.

SO THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS CAN OCCUR. SO THAT SALVATION CAN OCCUR.

Otherwise it can't occur.

There now, aren't you thankful for hard days, bad news, the hardship you didn't want.

The Reason For the Opposition

Knowing this doesn't make hard days easier,
But it helps minimize challenging God with 'why me?'

Jesus came to defeat EVERYTHING that opposes us in this life.

He experienced it SO IT COULD BE DEFEATED FOR US.

Hebrew Bible description of Jesus in Isaiah 53

charm, that we should find him pleasing.

- 3 He was despised, shunned by men, A man of suffering, familiar with disease. As one who hid his face from us, He was despised, we held him of no account.
- 4 Yet it was our sickness that he was bearing, Our suffering that he endured. We accounted him plagued, Smitten and afflicted by Hashem;
- 5 But he was wounded because of our sins, Crushed because of our iniquities. He bore the chastisement that made us whole, And by his bruises we were healed.

Source: 'The Israel Bible'

Hebrew Bible description of Jesus in Isaiah 53

- 8 By oppressive judgment he was taken away, Who could describe his abode? For he was cut off from the land of the living Through the sin of my people, who deserved the punishment.
- 9 And his grave was set among the wicked, And with the rich, in his death— Though he had done no injustice And had spoken no falsehood.
- 10 But Hashem chose to crush him by disease, That, if he made himself an offering for guilt, He might see offspring and have long life, And that through him *Hashem's* purpose might prosper.
- 11 Out of his anguish he shall see it; He shall enjoy

Source: 'The Israel Bible'

Hebrew description of Jesus in Isaiah 53

Knowing this doesn't make hard days easier,
But it helps minimize challenging God with 'why me?'

Jesus came to defeat EVERYTHING that opposes us in this life

JESUS SUFFERED EVERY OPPOSITION WITH US

JESUS SUFFERED EVERY OPPOSITION FOR US

What is the Conclusion of Job's Story?

You can lead a good life....

...even a life pleasing to God

...and everything around you can go wrong.

What is the Conclusion of Job's Story?

Job 2:3 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil? and **still he holdeth fast his integrity**, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, **Dost thou still retain thine integrity?** curse God, and die.

Job 27:5 God forbid that I should justify you; **till I die I will not remove mine integrity from me.**

What is the Conclusion of Job's Story?

You can lead a good life....

...even a life pleasing to God

...and everything around you can go wrong.

>>>But the point is: don't lose your INTEGRITY toward God if and when it does.

YOU ARE EXPERIENCING THE OPPOSITION.

Part 2

Where do we fit in this opposition

Part 2

What is the significance of this Scripture??

9 For thus saith the scripture, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

Alma 16:8-9

Now there was no law against a man's belief, for it was strictly contrary to the commandments of God that there should be a law which should bring men on to unequal grounds,

For thus saith the scripture, **Choose ye this day whom ye will serve.**

No Eternal Laws against

Important to see that the idea that prompted the scripture in Joshua was the same idea, that could not be laws against thought.

OUR THOUGHTS/OUT Will

It is in this balance of the opposition.

8 Now there was no law against a man's belief, for it was strictly contrary to the commandments of God that there should be a law which should bring men on to unequal grounds,

9 For thus saith the scripture, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve."

Alma 16:8

Now there was no law **against** a man's **belief**,
for it was **strictly contrary to the commandments of God** **that there should**
be a law
which should bring men on to unequal grounds,

Alma 16:12

Nevertheless, **there was no law against a man's belief**,
Therefore, a man was punished only for the crimes which he had done,
Therefore, all men were on equal grounds.

Here is the summary of life

There exists an opposition in all life. It is a fixed law BY GOD, You/We can't do anything about it.

Simultaneously, there is NO LAW by GOD against our belief. (This is more than just an American constitutional right, although you can see where the Founders were inspired on high)

So the challenge of this life becomes: to temper your belief within the boundaries of continual opposition.

- Tempering your belief to the ways of GOOD is called (finding) **the way.**
- **There can not be laws against belief or this would destroy the agency of man, but the WHOLE PLAN OF SALVATION. HUMANITY HAS TO BE FREE TO CHOOSE, THEN ALL JUDGMENT IS BASED ON THE OUTCOME OF YOUR CHOICES.**
- **Salvation has to be a free choice, likewise is damnation (free)**

Lehi's Teaching Continued....

[2 Nephi 1:119](#) "Wherefore, men are **free**, according to the flesh; And all things are given them which are expedient unto man;

[2 Nephi 1:120](#) And they are **free** to choose liberty and eternal life through the great Mediator of all men, Or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil,

Lehi's Teaching Continued....

There exists an opposition always in this life.

There is no law (eternal) dictating our belief.

All of life is if you choose to use your belief to guide you to the right.

We are FREE within the CONTINUAL OPPOSITION.

[Moroni 7:12](#) Wherefore, take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye do not **judge** that which is evil to be of God, Or that which is **good** and of God to be of the devil.

[Moroni 7:13](#) For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to **judge**, that ye may know **good** from evil; And the way to **judge** is as plain, that ye may know with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight is from the dark night;

[Moroni 7:14](#) For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that they may know **good** from evil. Wherefore, I show unto you the way to **judge**: For everything which inviteth to do **good** and to persuade to believe in Christ is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ;

6

PARALLELISM

6.1 *Introductory*

Parallelism

Parallelism is universally recognised as the characteristic feature of biblical Hebrew poetry although it is also used extensively in kindred Semitic verse (notably Akkadian) as well as elsewhere.¹ Most introductions to Hebrew poetry, for instance, Gray's *The Forms of Hebrew Poetry*, provide a brief description of parallelism and then proceed to give a detailed classification of its sub-types: synonymous, antithetic, synthetic² and so on. My presentation here will be very different from the standard not simply to avoid duplication or out of sheer love of novelty but because the study of parallelism has been affected, recently, on two levels, both related to theory. Accordingly, a few basic notions of theory with particular reference to parallelism

IT's the words, but its deeper than the words or literary style

- The Opposition in all things is a deeply profound explanation of life.
- It is the principle by which eternity is taught.
- It is the ways in which all of God's principles were explained.

- But not only life, all of eternity.
- If there is an eternal reward, there must be an eternal punishment
- (Then follow up with how can there be infinite levels of salvation?)
- Salvation is on a parallel.
- All of life is on a parallel.
- THIS IS LIKELY WHY THE HEBREWS WROTE IN PARALLELS.
- EVEN THE BOOK OF MORMON USES THE WORD PARALLEL.

Genesis 3

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the **tree was good for food,**
and that it was pleasant to the eyes,
and a tree to be desired to make one wise,
she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat,
and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

2 Nephi 1:98

Even the **forbidden fruit** in opposition to the **tree of life**,
the one being **sweet**
and the other **bitter**;

But Notice that partaking would do what?

Make one 'wise.'

Scripture takes on new meanings 'show me the way'

The way is prepared.

Not compelled to come. IE, no law.

No law on your mind, but your mind is in the middle of the forces.

Teach it to yield to Gods force

Eve's words are important in IV, even though criticized by Evangelicals

- States if we hadn't sinned we wouldn't have known these things.
- But it is getting back to the deeper meaning the Hebrews understood that without tasting the bitter, you wouldn't know the sweet.

- Had to taste bitter to know the sweet.

Interpreting Book of Mormon Principles

- You will Experience Adversity in life.
- Your thoughts determine. There is no law against thoughts or will, it is free. But it determines outcome.
- It needs to be pulled to the left so you can determine to go to the right.
- There can be no north pole without a south pole.

What binds satan? Is it chains?

- Because of the righteousness of the saints satan has no power.
- Our will changes.

This is the meaning of repentance, that you give the power to the thing that was MOST created in Gods image, your mind, your creativity, your dreams, your hopes, and re-direct them to the purposes of the Lord.

It was satan's will exerted over God that cast him out.

It is our will the same.

That is why the battle is over the will. THIS IS WHY AN OPPOSITION MUST EXIST, SO THAT WE HAVE A CHANGE,
A FAIR CHANGE FOR OUR WILL TO BE 'WILLINGLY' CHANGED.

2 Timothy 3:12

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall **suffer persecution.**

John 16:33

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.
In the world ye shall have tribulation.

But be of good cheer,

I have overcome the world.

1 John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them; **because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.**

1 John 5:4 For **whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world;** and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

1 John 5:5 **Who is he that overcometh the world,** but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

IMPORTANT TO SEE IN BOOK OF MORMON,
I HAVE OVERCOME (THE SELF WILL)
I HAVE DONE THE WILL OF THE FATHER.

- The opposition in all things must exist.
- This is why you never need to accept the premise of the question ‘If God really exists, why do bad things happen to good people?’
- The truth reveals that opposing things can and do happen.
- This is why life can feel really bad. The opposition is REQUIRED.
- This is why Job’s story is included in scripture, so you can no that doing nothing to deserve bad things, Job experienced more in one day than most humans ever in history.

- This is why enduring matters.
- But the blessings are real, the testimonies are real
- God says I do these things so you can stand as witnesses.

This is why ETERNAL LIFE HAS TO BE ON A COMPLETE PARALLEL.
THIS IS WHY DECISIONS REGARDING GOD COME DOWN TO THIS:
ONE CHOICE WITH TWO DISTINCT AND OPPOSITE OUTCOMES
(MAKE A CHART OF THIS FOR SALVATION ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF
MORMON VS ORAL TRADITION.
God was savior vs 3 saviors

Most religion comes down to 3 things

- It's story about God
 - It's story about eternal life
 - Our response to it all.
-
- What the Book of Mormon teaches regarding all this is profoundly true and clear. EVERY ELEMENT of the BOOK OF MORMON IS TAUGHT ON A PARALLEL I HAD NEVER OBSERVED BEFORE
 - THIS IS WHY IT BEGINS TO BE IMPORTANT TO SEE THE PARALLELS IN THE WORDS, BUT IN THE MEANINGS, IN THE GREATER LESSONS.

The JEWS ARE ALREADY SEEING THIS.

GODCAME DOWN (JAMES TOUR)

WE HAVE TO KNOW THESE THINGS.

THEY AREN'T GOING TO WAIT AROUND WHILE WE MUTTER ABOUT
MIGHT BE ONE GOD MIGHT BE 3,

OR YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT SALVATION,

3 Nephi 5:12

And behold,

I Am the light and the life of the world;

And I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given Me.

And have glorified the Father in taking upon Me the sins of the world, in the which I **have suffered the will of** the Father in all things from the beginning."

Try to find critic of Book of Mormon, and Eve

Proving Parallelism

Genesis 4:11

And Eve, his wife, heard all these things and was glad, saying,
Were it not for our transgression we never should have had seed,
and never should have known good and evil,
and the joy of our redemption,
and the eternal life which God giveth unto all the obedient.

- Lehi's words are more than just words
- They represent the mindset of the Hebrews who were taught on high.
- They viewed many things as one.

- Heaven and earth are one.
- God is one in many qualities
- But split the qualities into male and female, to be reunited as one.
- This is reflected in the language, now we see it in the learning.
- Light and dark were all one.
- Gods pattern of making, then separating into two.
- Then God said, "Let there be light;" and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day..

A day is a complete cycle of evening and morning.

The darkness is present, then the light.

This is the pattern of creation. The light enters the darkness.

This is the pattern of the world. Darkness exists, then righteousness and truth sweep the earth as with a flood and NO darkness exists.

This is the ONE story of HUMANITY.

THE MAJOR CONTROL YOU HAVE OVER DARKNESS IS YOUR WILL. THIS IS WHY FASTING IS SO IMPORTANT. YOU TRAIN YOUR WILL TO OVERCOME YOUR FLESH.

THE BODY AND THE SPIRIT IS THE SOUL (THE ESSENCE OF LIFE) OF MAN.

WATERS WERE ONE, GOD SEPARATES THEM IN CREATION. WATER
BELOW, WATER ABOVE.

THE ENTIRE CREATION, WERE TWO THINGS
(READ FROM HEBREW BIBLE)

THE WHOLE EARTH AND ALL THE LIFE, THE STARS, THE MOON.
AND THE HUMANS WHO WALK THE EARTH

CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THIS IS INTENTIONAL OPPOSITION.

OUR WILL IS IN THE BALANCE.

THIS IS WHY REPENTANCE IS THE ONLY OPTION WE HAVE, IT REFLECTS
REDIRECTION OF THE WILL,

- THIS IS WHY INFANT BAPTISM IS MEANINGLESS AND MOCKERY BECAUSE BAPTISM IS A WITNESS OF WILLINGNESS.

Hebrew word for this class

- Willfull.
- The essence of sin is the will to sin.

OH YES PLAY RAVI Z VIDEO ON ASKING WHY SO MANY BAD THINGS HAPPEN.

WE HAVE THE ANSWERS. PLAIN.

<https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/studies-words/good-and-bad.htm>

Good and Bad

By Jeff A. Benner

Very few sermons in our Western synagogues and churches would include the passage "I [God] form the light and create darkness, I make peace and I create evil, I am the LORD who does all of these" (Isaiah 45:7) as our Western mind sees these two forces as opposing opposites. However, the Eastern mind sees them both as equals and necessary for perfect balance.

In the Western mind, God is only good and therefore unable to create evil. The Eastern mind sees God as a perfect balance of all things including good (tov in Hebrew, Strong's #2896) and evil (ra in Hebrew, Strong's #7451).

It should be noted that the English word "evil" has no Ancient Hebrew equivalent, while most English translations will use the word "evil," it is usually the Hebrew word ra, which is also often translated as "bad."

In the Ancient Hebrew mind there is no such thing as an "evil" person or thing. To understand the words "good" and "bad" from a more Hebraic understanding, these words should be understood as "functional" and "dysfunctional". God is both functional (such as seen in the Creation story of Genesis one) as well as dysfunctional (such as seen with the destruction of the flood).

<https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/studies-words/good-and-bad.htm>

Our western mind classifies all things in two categories, either it is "good" or it is "bad". One is to be sought, cherished and protected, the other is to be rejected, spurned and discarded. Let us take light and darkness as an example. We see light as good and darkness as bad. The idea of light brings to mind such things as God, truth and love. Darkness on the other hand invokes Satan, lies and hate. To the Orientals, including the Hebrews, both are equally necessary as one cannot exist without the other. In the Bible God is seen as a God of light as well as darkness "And the people stood at a distance and Moses approached the heavy darkness where God was." (Exodus 20:21). If you stare at the sun, which is pure light, what happens? You become blind. If you are standing in a sealed room with no light, what happens? You are again blind. Therefore, both light and darkness are bad and yet, both are good. In order to see we must block out some of the light as well as some of the darkness.

The two poles of a magnet are north and south. These two poles create balance, they are not morally good or bad, but necessary ingredients of physics that compliment each other. Good and bad are more like the north and south poles of a magnet than our Western conception of good and bad.

Notice what Benner says..

Can good exist without the bad?

Absolutely not, how could you judge **something to be good if you cannot compare it to something bad?** The same is true for all other concepts. Cold cannot exist without heat, or short without tall, far without near, or large without small. **Our western mind usually ignores these extremes and seeks to always find the "good" or the "bad". The Eastern mind is continually seeking both the "good" and the "bad" in order to find the balance between the two.** Even Solomon recognized this when he said "*Do not be overly righteous*" (Ecclesiastes 7:16).

He describes the mind of the Hebrews.

Now notice book of Mormon...how could this not be written by a Hebrew.

...if there be no Christ

...if there be no God

...if there be no faith

...if there be no righteousness

2 Nephi 8:13

For **if there be no Christ**, there be no God; And if there be no God, we are not, for there could have been no creation;

2 Nephi 8:13

For if there be no Christ, there be no God;
And **if there be no God**, we are not,
for there could have been no creation;

Ether 5:13 For if there be no faith among the children of men, God can do no miracle among them; Wherefore, He showed not Himself until after their faith.

- [Alma 15:56](#) Yea, and I know that good and **evil** hath come before all men - Or he that knoweth not good from **evil** is blameless, But he that knoweth good and **evil**, to him it is given according to his desires, Whether he desireth good or **evil**, life or death, joy or remorse of conscience.

2 Nephi 1:90 And if there be no righteousness, there be no happiness;

2 Nephi 1:91 And if there be no righteousness nor happiness, there be no punishment nor misery;

Getting back to witnesses

- 5 "Wherefore, by the words of three, " God hath said, "I will establish My word";

•

6 Nevertheless, God sendeth more witnesses and He proveth all His words.

The Law of Moses in opposition to the Law of Mercy

- 7 Behold, my soul delighteth in proving unto my people the truth of the coming of Christ,

•

8 For, for this end hath the law of Moses been given;

•

9 And all things which have been given of God from the beginning of the world unto man are the typifying of Him.

•
11 Yea, my soul delighteth in His grace and His justice and power and mercy, In the great and eternal plan of deliverance from death.

•
12 And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that save Christ should come, all men must perish;

•
13 For if there be no Christ, there be no God; And if there be no God, we are not, for there could have been no creation;

•
14 But there is a God, And He is Christ, And He cometh in the fullness of His own time.

•

To take name in vain

What does it mean for Yahweh to be *ehhad*? Yahweh manifests himself in many different ways. He is the cloud that leads the Israelites through the wilderness providing them shade from the hot sun. He is also the fire that leads them providing them with light and heat at night. He is the destroyer and the savior. He is the prosecutor and the defender. Each attribute of Yahweh is a unit, and each unit manifests itself in different ways, but they all work together to form a "unity" in the same way that all the individual units of a bicycle work together in unity, allowing the bicycle to function properly. In Zechariah 14:9 it states that Yahweh's "*name is ehhad*." The Hebrew word for "name" is) םש*shem*, Strong's #8034), which has the more Hebraic meaning of "character." Yahweh's "character" is *ehhad*, meaning that Yahweh will always work in unity with himself. The next time someone asks you what God's name is, you can say, "His name is *Ehhad*!"

Adonai is judge, but one looking to find the good

What happened to Lehi's people

Mormon

Alma's friends

Abinadi

- Jesus wasn't immune
- Which I doubt he felt.
- Felt more pain than anyone
- Use Hebrew bible 'crushed' by our diseases
- He likely new the flu

- Regarding list of Book of Mormon doctrines, start by being objective.
- have to make sure we don't inject a latter day bias into interpretation.
- Strong paradigms.
- What if we were supposed to teach the words of the Book of Mormon?

The heart of human condition...

We want to be able to make sense of suffering.

I wish I would have understood these things when I was younger, when my kids were younger, so I could have taught my children like Lehi.

Principles of living

Remember Nephi sees 'plain and precious' removed from scripture, but restores things that are 'plain and precious'

Question??

- What other book of scripture anywhere teaches this plain but fundamental truth.
- I can't find one.

- “Putting all of this together, the phrase) כנֶגְדוֹ עֵזֶר קֵנֶגֶדוֹ (ezer kenegedo) literally means “a helper like his opposite.” In my opinion this means that Eve was to be his “other half,” like him, but with the opposite attributes.” (What is a “help meet?”, Jeff A. Benner, www.ancient-hebrew.org)

This doctrine states that there are only two ways to live:
the way of life, and the way of death.

Lehi's statement strongly echoes Deuteronomy, where Moses proclaimed, "I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live" ([Deuteronomy 30:19](#)).

This is the theme of 'the wisdom' literature

Alma 17:82 **The way is prepared** - And if we will look, we may live forever.

2 Nephi 6:81 Behold, **the way for man is narrow**,
but it lieth in a straight course before him.
And the keeper of the gate is the Holy One of Israel,
and He employeth no servant there;

2 Nephi 1:66 And **the way is prepared from** the fall of man, And salvation is free;

2 Nephi 7:40 Therefore, cheer up your hearts, And remember that ye are free to act for yourselves.
To **choose the way of everlasting death**,
or **the way of eternal life**;

Moroni 7:13

For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge,
that ye may know good from evil;

And **the way to judge is as plain,**
that ye may know with a perfect knowledge,
as the daylight is from the dark night;

3 Nephi 6:25

Enter ye in at the strait gate, For wide is the gate and broad is **the way that leadeth to** destruction, And many there be which go in thereat;