



“Tradition”

Class 04

Book of Mormon Class

Living Hope Congregation, Independence, MO.

Tradition

Recap

Tradition

Lamanite Tradition

When History Isn't?

A Book

The Moon

Revelation 12

Melchizedek

The Governor

Isaiah and Book of Mormon

KJ Isaiah vs Book of Mormon

Isaiah 29 vs 2 Nephi 11

One Gift

Unalterable Decrees

Eternal Justice

(notes)

Failed the History Test

- Hitler vs Luther.
- Why? Because after first clue, thought you had it figured out.

So...does this Sound Like Joseph Smith??

<u>Condition</u>	IN Joseph Smith's Life	
	Yes	No
Of Manasseh (vs7)		X
In Spirit of Power (vs9)		X
Out of Darkness in his day (vs9)		X
Esteemed Highly among Joseph's People (11)		X
Brought Joseph to Knowledge of Covenants (12)		X
Judah and Joseph shall write (vs 19)	X	
but to establish peace among Joseph (21)		X
to Bring to knowledge of fathers and covenants (22-23)		X
when My work shall commence among all My people (24)		X
seek to destroy him shall be confounded (26)		X
shall be after the name of his father, (29)	X	

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Recoiled at...

- Suggestion that prophet spoken of is likely not JS2.
- Why? Because tradition suggests it is.
- Why IS THAT?
- Because we took a cursory look at it, and from a couple seemingly obvious clues, concluded the answer.
- Did not study all the clues.
- The common explanation of 2 Nephi becomes our tradition.
- Incorrect ideas only cease when they are confronted with obvious facts.

Amused by...

- LDS Speaking of whose children are in Heaven if born into an 'eternal marriage.'
- Laughed at complexity?
- Why? Because these are not RLDS/Restoration traditions.
- Why is it easy to laugh at?
- Because we didn't grow up with these traditions.
- But for those who did, serious business. I may have offended some LDS watching. Offense was not my intent.

Wondered at...

“IF IT BE THAT ZION IS NOT THE GOAL, THEN THIS CHURCH HAS LITTLE REASON FOR EXISTING...”

It is the most attractive, the most soul-appealing goal I know of...”

Frederick M. Smith

From Garland's Email

“Just where it came from, let me repeat, I do not know, but always my faith, my ministry, has been dominated by this idea Zion;

and so I have always been disposed to measure the progress of the church by its approach to this GREAT GOAL;...

Zion fixes the religious position of this church.

IF IT BE THAT ZION IS NOT THE GOAL, THEN THIS CHURCH HAS LITTLE REASON FOR EXISTING...

It is the most attractive, the most soul-appealing goal I know of..”

~Frederick M. Smith

What if.....This was Our Purpose Instead??

- What if the church told of The Opposition in all things? (2 Nephi 1:80-98)
- What if the church told about our Choice in the Opposition? (2 Nephi 1:66)
- What if the church told the world of The Fall of Man? (2 Nephi 1)
- What about explaining Justice and Mercy AND Jesus' Compassion? (Alma 19)
- What about announcing The Infinite Atonement? (Alma 16:213)
- What about explaining Repentance and the Change of Heart? (Mosiah 11:182)
- What if the church revealed how Mercy Overcomes Justice through His Atonement and Our Repentance? (Alma 16:216)
- Or Coming in at the Gate, living by the Word, being directed by the Spirit? (2Nephi chapters 13-15)
- TRANSLATED: WHAT IF THIS CHURCH TOLD THE MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON?

What is Tradition?

Tradition can be defined as a set of beliefs, customs, practices, or values that are passed down from generation to generation within a particular culture or community.

Traditions can include rituals, holidays, stories, songs, foods, and other cultural practices that are seen as important and meaningful by those who participate in them.



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What is Tradition?

Traditions can play a significant role in shaping a community's identity and sense of continuity, and can serve as a means of preserving cultural heritage and transmitting important values and knowledge from one generation to the next.



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Traditions can be written and can be oral

Traditions can be correct.

Traditions can be incorrect.



In the Book of Mormon.....

Perhaps the Significant Determinant of
who the Lamanites were was....

Tradition!

Lamanites

Mosiah 6:

44 Now the Lamanites knew nothing concerning the Lord, nor the strength of the Lord, Therefore, they depended upon their own strength,

45 Yet they were a strong people as to the strength of men. They were a wild and ferocious and a bloodthirsty people, believing in the tradition of their fathers, which is this:

46 Believing that they were driven out of the Land of Jerusalem because of the iniquities of their fathers,

And that they were wronged in the wilderness by their brethren;

And they were also wronged while crossing the sea;

Lamanites

Mosiah 6:

47 And again, that they were wronged while in the land of their first inheritance, after they had crossed the sea.

48 And all this because that Nephi was more faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord, Therefore, he was favored of the Lord, for the Lord heard his prayers and answered them,

And he took the lead of their journey in the wilderness.

49 And his brethren were wroth with him because they understood not the dealings of the Lord;

Lamanites

(King Benjamin writing about their records handed down...)

[Mosiah 1:8](#)

And we should have been like unto our brethren, the Lamanites,
which 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.

First lesson:

- If we hold to traditions, it is important these come from what was written.
- AND that must be written by the most reliable, responsible servants.

Lamanites had to overcome hard traditions...

Alma 7:21-22

For it is because of the traditions of their fathers that causes them to remain in their state of ignorance,

Therefore, the Lord will be merciful unto them and prolong their existence in the land;

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;

Lamanites had to overcome hard traditions...

Alma 12:

15 ...That they might be an instrument in the hands of God to bring, if it were possible, [their brethren the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth,](#)

16 To the knowledge of the baseness of [the traditions of their fathers, which were not correct.](#)

Alma 12: 25, 145

Alma 14: 5, 9, 29, 65, 107 Helaman 2: 116

HOW DID NEPHITES DIFFER FROM LAMANITES?

- Nephite Traditions were That which was written on Metal Plates....

Important: TRADITION vs WRITTEN RECORD
is what distinguished Nephites from Lamanites.

[Alma 1:109](#)

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,
Which believed in the commandments of God and kept them,
Were called the Nephites, or the people of Nephi, from that time forth;

But later Nephites started calling Truthful things 'incorrect traditions' (Nephites after Samuel's Sermon)

Helaman 5:129

And they began to reason and to contend among themselves, saying that, "It is not reasonable that such a Being as a Christ shall come;

130 If so, and He be the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth, as it hath been spoken, Why will He not show Himself unto us, as well as unto they which shall be at Jerusalem?

But later Nephites started calling Truthful things 'incorrect traditions' (Nephites after Samuel's Sermon)

Helaman 5:

131 Yea, why will He not show Himself in this land, as well as in the Land of Jerusalem?

132 "But behold, we know that this is a wicked tradition which has been handed down unto us by our fathers to cause us that we should believe in some great and marvelous thing which should come to pass, But not among us, but in a land which is far distant, a land which we know not;

133 Therefore, they can keep us in ignorance, for we cannot witness with our own eyes that they are true;

Who believes Samuel the Lamanite Spoke
Truth that day?

On that day you would have been in the minority....

Helaman 5

111 But **as many as there were which did not believe in the words of Samuel were angry with him;**

And they cast stones at him upon the wall,
and also many shot **arrows** at him as he stood upon the wall;

...117 But the more part of them did not believe in the words of Samuel; Therefore, **when they saw that they could not hit him with their stones and their arrows,** they cried out unto their captains, saying: "**Take this fellow and bind him, for behold, he hath a devil;**

Others speaking truth...dealt with harshly.

[Alma 10:33](#)

But the more part of them were desirous that they might destroy Alma and Amulek,

For they were angry with Alma because of the plainness of his words unto Zeezrom;

When some men speak truth....

Alma 6:16 Now **when the people had said this and had withstood all his words and reviled him and spit upon him and caused that he should be cast out of their city**, And he departed thence and took his journey toward the city which was called Aaron.

Alma 10:44 And it came to pass that **they spit upon him and cast him out from among them, And also all those who believed in the words which had been spoken by Alma and Amulek**; And they cast them out and sent men to cast stones at them;

Alma 10:69 And many such things did they say unto them, **gnashing their teeth upon them and spitting upon them and saying**, "How shall we look when we are damned?"

What do we do when people speak against our tradition?

- **Zenoch**...spoke about Jesus....Zenoch suffered death by stoning.
- **Samuel** the Lamanite...tried to kill
- **Abinadi**...burned alive. (and what was the tradition he spoke against?)

[Mosiah 9:10-12](#)

And he said unto him Abinadi,

we have found an **accusation** against thee and **thou art worthy of death,**

For thou hast said that God Himself should come down among the children of men, And now for this cause thou shalt be put to death,

unless thou wilt recall all the words which thou hast spoken evil concerning me and my people."

Lamanites: wicked traditions would be removed...BY TEACHING FROM THE RECORDS.

Alma 17:

38 Yea, I say unto you, **were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates,** Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites of the incorrect tradition of their fathers;

39 Yea, **these records and their words brought them unto repentance, That is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God and to rejoice in Jesus Christ their Redeemer;**

Because the Lamanites changed hearts, they abandoned incorrect traditions.

(after God's Spirit rested upon Lamanites in the prison)

Helaman 2

116 And as many as were convinced did
lay down their weapons of war,
and also their hatred,
and **the tradition of their fathers.**

Lesson Two:

What is required to abandon incorrect traditions?

- A change of Heart.
- Along with renewal by the Holy Ghost.
- An understanding of the original word.

The Eternal Shift when false Traditions were Lost and Changed by the Holy Ghost....

[Helaman 2:118](#)

...

And the **Lamanites had become, the more part of them**, a righteous people,
Insomuch that **their righteousness did exceed that of the Nephites**
because of their firmness and their steadiness in the faith.

Lesson 3: Why the Change for good among the Lamanites?

- A change of heart occurred with presence of the Holy Ghost....
- Allowed them to evaluate traditions in light of the written record.
- The written record was available from the beginning.

It's OK to ask questions....

- The promise is that someday we all see eye to eye
- There will be agreement in Christ.
- We don't always recognize our traditions..
- It's not OK to lack charity...

LDS...admitted to changes to historical 'reality'

*“I commenced **revising the history of Joseph Smith** at Brother Richard’s office: Elder Heber C. Kimball and George A. Smith were with me. President Joseph Smith had corrected forty-two pages before his massacre. It afforded us great satisfaction to hear Brother [Willard] Richards read the history of the infancy of the church. Adjourned at eleven p.m. having read one hundred and forty pages in Book ‘A’”*

Brigham Young, History of the Church 7:29, p. 389; April 1, 1845

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Was this true??

"The early leaders of the Church had been rewriting their history from the time of Joseph Smith's first revelations, changing and elaborating details, and sometimes consciously altering the facts to suit later circumstances."

No Man Knows My History, Fawn Brodie

(Fawn Brodie's book was banned from LDS church)

LDS problem only??

In a 2019 article in the Salt Lake Tribune, historian Matthew Bowman discussed the Church's history of revising its own history:

"The church has long been aware of the problem of a tightly controlled narrative, and over the last two decades has made a concerted effort to be more transparent about its past.

But in the 19th and early 20th centuries, church leaders had a different idea about what history should do:

It should be inspirational, and tell the story of the faithful who followed the prophet."

History....re-written??

"By the early 1840s, Joseph Smith had begun to supervise the writing of a history of the church, which would be used to correct the inaccuracies and misrepresentations published in the newspapers. . . .

*But even this official history underwent revisions and additions, often to address later theological developments or **to sanitize the record.**"*

Intro to JosephSmithPapers.org

Book of Mormon Beautifully Blends Isaiah

- Likely over 100 references to Isaiah, besides entire chapters.
- Sometimes the writings blend to complete parallels (in the Book of Mormon)
- But Isaiah 29....our tradition vs reality.

Compare Isaiah 51:1

King James

Ho, every one that thirsteth,
come ye to the waters, and he
that hath no money; come ye,
buy, and eat; yea, come, buy
wine and milk without money
and without price.

2 Nephi 11:99

Come unto Me, all ye ends of
the earth, Buy milk and honey
without money and without
price."

But look what Book of Mormon does...

A	96 <u>He doeth not anything, save it be for the benefit of the world</u> , For He loveth the world, even that He layeth down His own life that He may draw all men unto Him;
B	97 Wherefore, He commandeth none that they <u>shall not partake of His salvation</u> .
C	98 Behold, doth He cry unto any, saying, " <u>Depart from Me</u> "?
X	99 Behold I say unto you, Nay! But He saith: "Come unto Me, all ye ends of the earth, Buy milk and honey without money and without price."
C'	100 Behold, hath He commanded any that they <u>should depart out of the synagogues</u> , or out of the houses of worship? <u>Behold I say unto you, Nay!</u>
B'	102 Hath He commanded any that they should <u>not partake of His salvation</u> ?
	103 <u>Behold I say unto you, Nay!</u> But He hath given it free for all men; And He hath commanded His people that they should persuade all men unto repentance.
A'	104 Behold, <u>hath the Lord commanded any that they should not partake of His goodness?</u> 105 Behold I say unto you, <u>Nay! But all men are privileged, the one like unto the other, And none are forbidden.</u>

Synonymous parallelism

Antithetical parallelism

Rhetorical question

(Isaiah is Center of Chiasm)

Climactic parallelism

Synthetical parallelism

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Critics: Joseph Smith Plagiarized from Isaiah

- I Wanted to understand this, yes or no.

Started Comparing each Book of Mormon Isaiah Verse with each King James verse of Isaiah.

- Did not know what would be found
- Fascinating Results...

Comparing Isaiah to the Book of Mormon

- Conclusion #1
- Joseph Smith didn't plagiarize Isaiah—too many subtle word differences, always for the better in the Book of Mormon.
- Critics sling dirt hoping dust discourages you. They didn't read the text. Just glance and harrumph.

Comparing Isaiah to the Book of Mormon

- Conclusion #2
- Read Isaiah from the Book of Mormon. It is a better version/translation.

Conclusions...

- Have Gentiles developed traditions over gospel/scripture?
- How could that happen?
- (Continued next class)

