

A Tale of Two Zions...

A Restored Gospel Podcast Presentation

A Tale of Two Cities

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,
it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness,
it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity,
it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness,
it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair,
--Charles Dickens...

A Tale of Two Zions....

- The Restoration tells a story of Zion
- The Book of Mormon tells a story.
- The two stories contrast as much as Dickens' words.

Make no mistake...

Make no mistake,
if your paradigm is created by Restoration tradition,
this will be confusing.

The book of Mormon teaches a different story about Zion, than what is taught by the Restoration

Follow Jacob's Advice—Don't Harden your heart against the word.

9 And while His arm of mercy is extended toward you in the light of the day, **harden not your hearts**;

10 Yea, today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts.

For why will ye die?

11 For behold, after that ye have been nourished by the good word of God all the day long, Will ye bring forth evil fruit, that ye must be hewn down and cast into the fire?

12 Behold, will ye reject these words?

13 Will ye **reject the words** of the prophets? And will ye reject all the words which have been spoken concerning Christ, after that so many have spoken concerning Him?

And **deny the good word of Christ** and the **power of God** and the **gift of the Holy Ghost**?

And **quench the Holy Spirit** and **make a mock of the great plan of redemption** which hath been laid for you?

And Moroni's question to us...

[Mormon 4:43](#) (LDS: [Mormon 8:33](#))

Why have ye transfigured the holy word of God, that ye might bring damnation upon your souls?

The Conventional Story (as believed by the Restoration)

- God Restores His Church in 1830.
- His restored Church persists.
- His restored Church builds a physical city Zion (in Independence, MO!)
- The City of Enoch returns to meet the physical.
- This occurs to BEGIN the Millennium.
- Peace on earth persists for 1000 years.
- Satan is let loose for a little season.
- Final Judgement (and presumed infinite levels of salvation)

Not In Book of Mormon

- Enoch
- Millennium or '1000 years'
- Everlasting Covenant with Enoch
- Enoch City
- Melchizedek/Aaronic Priesthood

Extremely different timing

- 1830's saints convinced themselves the Kingdom was imminent.
- B.Y. even taught the Millenium was already underway...
- But many signposts unfulfilled. (See signposts of Zion previously)
- This showed how little they understood the Book of Mormon, instead pursuing their own personal 'revelations.' Israel was gathering URGENTLY. Or so they thought.
- Early saints quickly gather to 'build zion' but are wholesale rejected. Reorganized saints make this their mantra while LDS saints focus on temple endowments, plural marriage.
- LDS build a well oiled machine to accumulate wealth, based on fear of 'losing celestial glory' to a lesser glory.

The Book of Mormon Story is very different.

- God brings the Book of Mormon to the Gentiles so the Gentiles would not Stumble.
- The Gentiles REJECT GOD and suffer judgement.
- Gentiles experience 'the Fierce Anger of God.' This is the worst judgement to suffer.
- The House of Joseph returns to Christ, and actually inflicts part of the judgement.
- The House of Joseph become pure in heart (like the Lamanites did). THEY BUILD A CITY and REPENTANT GENTILES ASSIST. All this first requires JUDGEMENT ON THE GENTILES.

The Two Stories

- ...are not compatible...
- Gentile writings expand on Enoch's return
- The Book of Mormon Does NOT mention Enoch.
- The Gentile writings overshadow the teachings of the Book of Mormon.

For Instance

- Explain Everlasting Covenant?

Gentile Notions vs Book of Mormon

Gentiles teach given to Joseph Smith about an Everlasting Covenant with Enoch.

BUT

Book of Mormon teaches the Everlasting Covenant was with ABRAHAM, rejoining Jew and Gentiles

AND regather House of Israel, returning to Homelands.

Gentiles tell that we, 'our church' has been
commissioned to build Zion and the world will
come.

- This was the whole purpose in gathering to the centerplace.

The Book of Mormon NEVER tells that. Instead the Book of Mormon says...

- That Gentiles orchestrate the building of Zion (on someone else's covenant land). Repentant Gentiles assist the Remnant of Joseph as they build the New Jerusalem.

The Book of Mormon DOES Tell...

- Gentiles seeking Zion (i.e. the Promises of God) will have the Holy Ghost.
- Zion means the promises of God to Israel not just a physical city.
- The Book of Mormon does not call the Physical City New Jerusalem 'Zion.'

The RUDE Awakening

- Restoration Gentiles meet to discuss Zion, thinking we are God's people, while the Book of Mormon predicts Gentiles will REJECT God, warning of stern judgement to the same (Gentiles).
- How could we be so diametrically opposed to the truth?