

5/29/20

Mosiah 29 - Alma 4

BofM #21

They Were Steadfast and Immovable

GT

Mos. 29

Excellent statement on the danger of kingship -

Mosiah echoes the statements of Alma. (Mos. 23: 7-13) - did Alma teach Mosiah about freedom, and talk him into this course of action?

- ① Not good to esteem one flesh above another
- ② One wicked king can undo the good work of all the righteous kings before him
- ③ It might be a good thing to have a king when he's righteous; but even the most righteous can have wickedness in their post, and power presents a temptation to evil
- ④ When your king is wicked, you're in bondage spiritually, militarily, economically,

Subtext of Deut. 17 (paragraph of kings): It doesn't say it's unrighteous to have a king (though it does say that in Judges 9 & 1 Sam 8) but the fact that a king has to have so many safeguards surrounding him would communicate to any sensible reader that it might be a good idea to try ^{some thing else}

Mosiah admonishes his people: let us be wise - checks and balances - he is giving them the responsibility for their freedom, and trying to teach them how to value it. Also done by Alma (Mos. 23:13 "stand fast in this liberty wherewith ye have been made free")

This is an astounding innovation in political science, and a giant leap forward for Nephite civilization. Was Mosiah given the records of the Jaredites for precisely this reason?

AS SOON AS they have their freedom, it comes under attack by three forms of lies, coming from three directions:

- ① spiritual. Nehor establishes a competing church and becomes wealthy by telling everyone Lie #1: that there are no consequences for sin. - This is in express contradiction to the revelation Alma received in Mosiah 26, that the consequences are real, and terrible. Nehor kills an old man who disagrees with him, but if Nehor were telling the truth,

priestcraft - selling of principle
interest
Hed for himself w/ look these

and everyone would be saved at the last day, why should he care?

- Nehor suffers capital punishment, an object lesson if there ever was one that there are terrible consequences for sin.

- he seems to make a deathbed confession that he was lying. This seems to be ~~at least~~ one of the things separating true and false prophets. Who wants to be martyred for a lie?

② - Nehor's priority is to shut down dissenting voices - he fears debate military/political. Amlici is one of the Nehors. His flattery is that

life would be better if he were king. We aren't given the details of his argument, but it was likely some combination of Nehor's doctrine, with a promise of some sort of gain. He also expressly wanted to destroy the church, so Mosiah's warning ^(Mos 29) about the voice of the people choosing wickedness being a sign of their impending destruction is almost fulfilled.

- He probably promised the wicked Nephites dominion over the righteous ones. But soon it becomes obvious he was already in league with the Lamanites. So he knew he was lying, and bringing his own people into bondage.

③ ^{social} - What harm is a philosophy? Book of Alma shows us.
^{economic} This is the real problem for the Nephites. Because the Lehite

covenant promises them prosperity when they're ~~not~~ obedient, they are destined to face this test repeatedly. The lie is that those who unequally prosper are somehow better than those who don't, and that they should glory in their own power for their prosperity rather than thanking God for it.

In each case, the Nephites had the information they needed to see through the lies that empowered these attacks.

- In the case of the pride cycle, (prosperity - pride - wickedness - destruction -
humility - obedience)

Alma is learning with every encounter the importance of humbling oneself vs. being humbled by compulsion.

It isn't true that all people love the philosophy of Nehor. (that God requires nothing of us) Those religions that teach that God has strict requirements are the ones that grow today.