

Sunday School Lesson #10: Parallel Doctrines

Submitted by Michael Kelley 2006-07

Lesson #10: More Direct Quotes: It is common in both the Bible and Book of Mormon to for the speaker to quote scripture from Isaiah and other prophets. As the saying goes “Scripture proves Scripture” and this method helps authenticate past writings. Even the book of Jonah is quoted by Jesus lending authenticity to the entire account. The following are examples of direct quotes of the same prophecy of Isaiah from Abinadi and Jesus:

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Mosiah 7:77 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings; that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, thy God reigneth;

3 Nephi 9:78 And then shall they say: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings *unto them*, that publisheth peace: that bringeth good tidings *unto them* of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

This last passage where Jesus quoted Isaiah is a little different than Abinadi’s quote in that Jesus was speaking future tense, prophesying of future people that will publish peace. There are 24 chapters of Isaiah quoted in the Book of Mormon with 425 verses being quoted, and of those 425 there are 229 verses which have differences. There are also 21 verses of Isaiah that are quoted in the Book of Mormon more than once with 8 of those verses having differences. (Ref: Great are the words of Isaiah, by Monte Nyman)

Another interesting note is that there is a theory of some scholars that states that one prophet authored Isaiah chapters 1-35, another authored Isaiah 40-55, and a third authored Isaiah 56-66. Some have even accused Joseph Smith of making an error in attributing quotes to one Isaiah if their theory was right about there being several different authors of the book. However the New Testament itself debunks this theory in that there are numerous quotes directly attributed to Isaiah covering all three alleged authors. There are 14 direct quotes, 21 quotes calling the passage “scripture” and 7 indirect quotes. Jesus quotes from the “first” and “third” Isaiah and Paul quotes from all three Isaiah books. Clearly Jesus, Paul and the Book of Mormon authors considered the book of Isaiah as being authored by one author... that being Isaiah of course.

When Jesus preached to the Nephites He also quoted directly from Malachi. I have included a few comparisons with passages that contain differences on the next page:

3 Nephi 11:2-3 And it came to pass that he commanded them that they should write the words which the Father had given unto Malachi, which he should tell unto them. 3 And it came to pass that after they were written, he expounded them.

Malachi 3:5 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in *his* wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger *from his right*, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.

3 Nephi 11:8 And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger, and fear not me, saith the Lord of Hosts.

Malachi 3:13-14 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken *so much* against thee? 14 Ye have said, It *is* vain to serve God: and what profit *is it* that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?

3 Nephi 11:16-17 Your words have been stout against me, saith the Lord. Yet ye say: What have we spoken against thee? 17 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God, and what *doth* it profit that we have kept his *ordinances*, and that we have walked mournfully before the Lord of Hosts?

The above comparisons show only a few differences between Malachi and 3 Nephi, and in each case the Book of Mormon seems to be more correct. Jesus again emphasizes the need for these scriptures from Malachi and then Mormon paraphrases other scriptures that Jesus spoke at this time:

3 Nephi 11:29-32 And he saith, These scriptures which ye had not with you, the Father commanded that I should give unto you, for it was wisdom in him that they should be given unto future generations. 30 And he did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that he should come in his glory; 31 Yea, even all things which should come upon the face of the earth, even until the elements should melt with fervent heat, and the earth should be wrapped together as a scroll, and the heavens and the earth should pass away; 32 And even unto the great and last day, when all people, and all kindreds, and all nations and tongues shall stand before God, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil;

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Revelation 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

The above quotes show indirect parallel doctrines in that the same teaching is brought forth from paraphrased quotes. The next two lessons will cover more parallel doctrines and situations.