

Constitution Class

To get started – I think there is one story which contains an important KEY in helping us understand the importance of the U.S. Constitution and it's divinity. It comes from the account of Wilford Woodruff in the St. George Temple:

We have labored in the St. George Temple since January, and we have done all we could there; and the Lord has stirred up our minds, and many things have been revealed to us concerning the dead. President Young has said to us, and it is verily so, if the dead could they would speak in language loud as ten thousand thunders, calling upon the servants of God to rise up and build Temples, magnify their calling and redeem their dead...

The dead will be after you, they will seek after you as they have after us in St. George. They called upon us, knowing that we held the keys and power to redeem them.

I will here say, before closing, that two weeks before I left St. George, the spirits of the dead gathered around me, wanting to know why we did not redeem them. Said they,

*"You have had the use of the Endowment House for a number of years, and yet nothing has ever been done for us. **We laid the foundation of the government you now enjoy, and we never apostatized from it, but we remained true to it and were faithful to God.**"*

These were the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and they waited on me for two days and two nights. I thought it very singular, that notwithstanding so much work had been done, and yet nothing had been done for them.

This one statement made by the spirits of our Founding Fathers proves the divinity behind their work and the Constitution in the Tradition of the Founding Fathers. It is the original intent of the Founders that carried with it the inspiration of God and His stamp of approval.

Ezra Taft Benson said in his 1972 General Conference talk *Civic Standards For the Faithful Saints*: [quote 1]

*“We honor our founding fathers of this republic for the same reason. God raised up these patriotic partners to perform their mission, and he called them “wise men.” (See D&C 101:80.) The First Presidency acknowledged that wisdom **when they gave us the guideline a few years ago of supporting political candidates “who are truly dedicated to the Constitution in the tradition of our Founding Fathers.”**”*

What do we think President Benson means when he says “in the tradition of our Founding Fathers”???

Here is what the Scriptures teach us about messing with the Original Intent of the Founding Fathers and the original Constitution: [quote 2]

D&C 98: 4-12

4 And now, verily I say unto you **concerning the laws of the land, it is my will that my people should observe to do all things whatsoever I command them.**

5 And **that law of the land which is constitutional**, supporting that principle of freedom in maintaining rights and privileges, belongs to all mankind, and is justifiable before me.

6 Therefore, I, the Lord, justify you, and your brethren of my church, in **befriending that law which is the constitutional law of the land**;

7 And as pertaining to law of man, **whatsoever is more or less than this, cometh of evil.**

8 I, the Lord God, make you free, therefore ye are free indeed; and the law also maketh you free.

9 Nevertheless, **when the wicked rule the people mourn.**

10 Wherefore, honest men and wise men should be sought for diligently, and good men and wise men ye should observe to uphold; otherwise whatsoever is less than these cometh of evil.

So, why is it important to understand the Constitution “in the tradition of the Founding Fathers” – to know their original intent?

President John Taylor tried to warn the Saints about this important and vital part of the gospel that most ignore. He said: **[quote 3]**

“...As we have progressed the mist has been removed, and in relation to these matters, the Elders of Israel begin to understand that they have something to do with the world politically as well as religiously, that it is as much their duty to study correct political principles as well as religious, and to seek to know and comprehend the social and political interests of man, and to learn and be able to teach that which would be best calculated to promote the interest of the world.”(1862, JD-9:340)

So – it’s an important mission for us in this life to educate ourselves about “correct” political principles, the Constitution and the Proper Role of Government.

President Ezra Taft Benson said this in his book *“En Enemy Hath Done This”*:

“According to Norman Vincent Peale, “There was a time when the American people roared like lions for liberty; now they bleat like sheep for security.”

“It is the devil’s desire that the Lord’s priesthood stay asleep while the strings of tyranny gradually and quietly entangle us until, like Gulliver, we awake too late and find that while we could have broken each string separately as it was put upon us, our sleepiness permitted enough strings to bind us to make a rope that enslave us.”

*“For years we have heard of the role the elders could play in saving the Constitution from total destruction. **But how can the elders be expected to save it if they have not studied it and are not sure if it is being destroyed or what is destroying it?”***

President Marion G. Romney stated: [quote 4]

*“We who hold the priesthood must beware concerning ourselves, that we do not fall into the traps he lays to rob us of our freedom. We must be careful that we are not led to accept or support in any way any organization, cause or measure which, in its remotest effect, would jeopardize free agency, whether it be in politics, government, religion, employment, education, or any other field. **It is not enough for us to be sincere in what we support. We must be right!”***

What was God trying to communicate to us when He inspired the Founding Fathers to write what they did???

The Proper Role of Government.

First of all – what form of government did we receive from the Founding Fathers?

A republic. NOT a Democracy.

American founding father, John Adams, understood well the shortcomings of democracy, he said:

Remember, democracy never lasts long. It soon wastes, exhausts, and murders itself. There never was a democracy yet that did not commit suicide.

The founders of this nation understood well the different forms of government, and consciously created a republic, rather than a democracy. They understood that democracy was based upon “majority rules,” and recognized that every democracy bears within its structure the basis for its ultimate destruction. A nation which ebbs and flows based upon the emotions which can be brought to bear upon the “masses” will sooner or later destroy itself because principles will be compromised to meet the whims of the majority

On the other hand, the basis of a republic is law—law which applies to all, which is limited to a specific scope, and which protects all equally. The republic established by those who founded this nation is based upon the principle of *limited government*, government which has defined powers. All individuals and agencies within the government are to operate within the bounds established in the Nation’s Charter---*The United States Constitution*.

Interestingly, the fundamental differences between republics and democracies, and the superiority of a republican form of government for maintaining freedom were pretty well understood by the nation until relatively recently in the United States. The

1928 *U.S. Army Training Manual* (which was used by all of the men in uniform), gave this very accurate definition of democracy: **[quote 5]**

A government of the masses. Authority derived through mass meeting or any form of “direct” expression. Results in mobocracy. Attitude toward property is communistic---negating property rights. Attitude toward law is that the will of the majority shall regulate, whether it be based upon deliberation or governed by passion, prejudice, and impulse, without restraint or regard to consequences. Results in demagogism, license, agitation, discontent, anarchy.

Tragically, throughout the twentieth century and continuing with even greater intensity during the twenty-first century, the movement to “institutionalize” the concept that democracy is the American and best form of government has gained even more acceptance. Even the military training establishment has contributed to the demise of correct understanding. In contrast to the 1928 *U.S. Army Training Manual*, noted above, **by 1952 the Army Field Manual had been rewritten and published** as *The Soldiers Guide*. Following is the “new” definition of democracy as promoted in *The Soldiers Guide*: **[quote 6]**

Meaning of democracy. Because the United States is a democracy, the majority of the people decide how our government will be organized and run—and that includes the Army, Navy, and Air Force. The people do this by electing representatives, and these men and women then carry out the wishes of the people.

Those who are familiar with the writings of Lenin and Mao Tse-tung will be shocked to recognize that this description of the national government and the manner in which the military is

structured more closely parallels the falsehoods published by those communist leaders than the words of the American founders.

A republic is based upon Law – not the whims of the majority. What does the Declaration of Independence state is the law by which our Founder’s sought to be governed by?

“The Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God”

The Father of our Constitution, **James Madison**, stated: [quote 7]

*“We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions **upon the capacity of mankind for self-government**; upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves, to control ourselves, to sustain ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God.”*

The Declaration of Independence is really the Spirit of the Law by which the Constitution, or Letter of the Law was given.

The Founding Fathers desired to be ruled by God and NOT by Laws made by mankind. They wrote the Constitution in order to STRICTLY LIMIT the laws that could be passed. They only wanted us to be ruled by God’s laws and NOT by man’s laws.

Joseph Smith taught:

*“**The Constitution is not a law**, but it empowers the people to make laws. . . . The Constitution tells us what shall not be a lawful tender. . . . The legislature has ceded up to us the privilege of enacting such laws **as are not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States**. . . . The different states, and even Congress*

itself, have passed many laws diametrically contrary to the Constitution of the United States....

*“Shall we be such fools as to be governed by its laws, which are unconstitutional? No! . . . **The Constitution acknowledges that the people have all power not reserved to itself**. I am a lawyer; I am a big lawyer and comprehend heaven, earth and hell, to bring forth knowledge that shall cover up all lawyers, doctors and other big bodies. **This is the doctrine of the Constitution**, so help me God.*

***The Constitution is not law to us**, but it makes provision for us whereby we can make laws. Where it provides that no one shall be hindered from worshipping God according to his own conscience, is a law. No legislature can enact a law to prohibit it. The Constitution provides to regulate bodies of men **and not individuals**.” (HC 5:289-90; also in TPJS 278)*

Indeed - the Constitution is NOT a law unto the people. The reason why the Constitution is not a law is because it is simply a contract between the people and their servant - the government – strictly to protect the people's God-given freedom and rights. The Constitution was inspired of God so that NO LAWS could be passed that would infringe upon the people's freedom and ability to build up the kingdom of God on the earth and to establish Zion.

The Constitution simply contains **principles** which cannot be destroyed - they are eternal - but the Constitution is not the destination or the “end all, be all”. However, until we can become more Zion like, we need the Constitution in order to grow God’s kingdom. Here are some of the Prophets’ statements about the Constitution:

Brigham Young: [quote 8]

“I want to say to every man, the Constitution of the United States, as formed by our fathers, was dictated, was revealed, was put into their hearts by the Almighty, who sits enthroned in the midst of the heavens; although unknown to them, it was dictated by the revelations of Jesus Christ, and I tell you in the name of Jesus Christ, it is as good as I could ask for.” (Henry 678; also in Roberts, Mormonism 27-28)

David O. McKay: [quote 9]

“Next to being one in worshipping God, there is nothing in this world upon which this Church should be more united than in upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States!”

Gordon B. Hinckley: [quote 10]

“On one occasion a journalist asked me about my belief regarding the Constitution. I replied that I felt it was inspired, that both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States were brought forth under the inspiration of God to establish and maintain the freedom of the people of this nation....

“We are involved in an intense battle. It is a battle between right and wrong, between truth and error, between the design of the Almighty on the one hand and that of Lucifer on the other. For that reason, we desperately need moral men and women who stand on principle, to be involved in the political process. Otherwise, we abdicate power to those whose designs are almost entirely selfish.”
(Standing For Something)

The Constitution is important, but the DESTINATION POINT is the Law of Consecration or the Law of ZION - to live like Enoch's society. The destination is NOT “capitalism” and Constitutional Law – the destination is a society governed by the Law of the Celestial Kingdom or Jesus Christ. We must grow grace by grace

and precept upon precept, thus the importance of the Constitution to get us started and allow us the freedom to grow into Zion.

The Constitution is simply a means to an end in order to achieve Zion again upon the earth. This is why, in my opinion, President J. Rueben Clark said “if you tamper with the Constitution you are tampering with the Law of Zion” – because without the freedom’s guaranteed by the Constitution it would have been impossible to build up the Kingdom of God upon the earth.

Now – why did God ordain earthly governments? [quote 11]

D&C 134: 1-2

1 WE believe that **governments** were instituted of God for the benefit of man; and that **he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them, both in making laws and administering them**, for the good and safety of society.

2 **We believe that no government can exist in peace, except such laws are framed and held inviolate as will secure to each individual the free exercise of conscience, the right and control of property, and the protection of life.**

So – according to God – the only purpose of government is to protect life, liberty and property.

The Founding Fathers, inspired by God, understood that there is a proper and an improper role of Government. The following words from the Alabama State Constitution accurately define this:

“The sole object and only legitimate end of government is to protect the citizen in the enjoyment of life, liberty, and property, and when the government assumes other functions it is usurpation and oppression.”

In fact, our Twelfth Article of Faith is based solely upon a government that fits that description:

ARTICLE OF FAITH #12 - We believe in being subject to kings, presidents, rulers, and magistrates, **in** obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

What Law?

The Law of Nature and of Nature's God protected by The Constitutional Law of the Land!

Based on what D&C 134 teaches us – we are only bound by God to obey the government when they “obey, honor and sustain” the Constitution. If they ignore the Constitution and threaten our life, liberty and property then they cannot expect to “exist in peace” and enjoy our sustaining support.

Now – what are the basics of the Constitution?

First of all – the base principles of the Proper Role of Government can be explained this way:

We can only delegate to government rights or tasks that we as individuals can have or can perform.

If I do not have a right as an individual to do something – then “we the people” cannot delegate that right to government to do it.

That's it. Plain and simple. That is the way to accurately judge whether something government is doing is right or wrong.

Can I honorably do something according to God's law? Then I can delegate it to government.

In fact, the first level of government in modern history is that of the Sheriff. A group of citizens were spending so much time worrying about protecting their flocks and farms from thieves and enemies that they couldn't succeed. Therefore as a community they came together and hired a man to work full time to protect their land – a Sheriff. As individuals they had a right to protect their life, liberty and property even unto death – so therefore they can delegate that right to someone else to perform that function.

However, this group of farmers does NOT have a right to force the over-producers to hand over their excess and give to the poor.

So – what's in the Constitution and what does it mean?

SEE Constitution Explained Document...

General Welfare Clause Explanation:

Here is James Madison's statement regarding the perverse doctrine that the Constitution's "welfare clause" could be "interpreted" to mean anything that the politicians wanted to cover with their largess:

James Madison, "The Father of the Constitution", Speech on the U.S. House floor, 07 February 1792:

It is supposed, by some gentlemen, that Congress have authority not only to grant bounties in the sense here used.... but even to grant them under a power by virtue of which they may do any thing which they may think conducive to the general welfare!....

I believe those ratified the Constitution conceived—that this is not an indefinite government, deriving its powers from the general terms prefixed to the specified powers—but a limited

government, tied down to the specified powers, which explain and define the general terms.

If Congress can employ money indefinitely to the general welfare, and are the sole and supreme judges of the general welfare, they may take the care of religion into their own hands; they may appoint teachers in every state, county, and parish, and pay them out of their public treasury; they may take into their own hands the education of children establishing in like manner schools throughout the Union; they may assume the provision for the poor; they may undertake the regulation of all roads other than post-roads; in short, every thing, from the highest object of state legislation down to the most minute object of police, would be thrown under the power of Congress; for every object I have mentioned would admit of the application of money, and might be called, if Congress pleased, provisions for the general welfare.

The language held in various discussions of this house is a proof that the doctrine in question was never entertained by this body.

I venture to declare it as my opinion, that, were the power of Congress to be established in the latitude contended for, it would subvert the very foundations, and transmute the very nature of the limited government established by the people of America; and what inferences might be drawn, or what consequences ensue, from such a step, it is incumbent on us all to consider.

(Quote in: Jonathan Elliot, Debates on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, Vol. 4, p.428-429, emphasis added)

Because we have ignored the Founding Fathers and the limits placed upon the Government by the Constitution and because we are now a Socialist Democracy we are in severe trouble as a

nation. We have completely ignored James Madison and we are now seeing “what consequences have ensued” ...

After the passage of the fraudulent 16th and 17th Amendments we saw the creation of the Federal Reserve Central Banking System. Out of which came income tax and withholding and the creation of a Welfare State instigated by something called **The Townsend Act or Plan**. This was later named *Social Security* by Roosevelt when he announced his plans for the New Deal in the early 30s.

When the Townsend Act was first being implemented, many of the Saints became excited and were truly supportive of it. This caused many questions to arise. In 1936 General Conference, President Heber J. Grant discussed this new *Social Security* plan. He said: **[quote 12]**

“We have on, at the present time (1936), a great political campaign, and I want to say to the Saints that I hope they will not allow their political affiliations, their regard for political affairs, to cause feelings of ill-will towards one another. I have had some of the most insulting letters that ever came to me, condemning me for not being in favor of the Townsend Plan [This ”Plan” was renamed Social Security] , and that I must be ignorant of the plan. I am not ignorant of the plan. I have not read every word of it, but I have asked one of my secretaries to read every word of the plan and to give me the important points, and to my mind it is in direct opposition to everything I have quoted from Brigham Young and from the revelations of the Lord. The idea of allowing every man and woman who has reached the age of sixty years and wishes to retire from working to get two hundred dollars a month from the government! There is nothing truer than Brigham Young's statement, that we should give nothing to people, unless they are not able to work, without requiring them to do something for it....

“Let every Latter-day Saint who has a farm, farm it, and not try to borrow money to be paid back by the government. Let every man feel that he is the architect and builder of his own life, and that he proposes to make a success of it by working. "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work," and rest on

the seventh. Do not be willing to labor four or five days and then only half labor. Let every Latter-day Saint give value received for everything he gets, whether it be in work, or whatever he does.”

—CR, October, 1936: 13. President Heber J Grant.

After about 5 years it seems that the Saints ignored the Prophets’ counsel and the majority were fully in support of Roosevelt’s New Deal policies – including this Social Security plan and many of the Welfare State entitlement programs. This prompted a stark warning from the First Presidency in a letter that they wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury in 1941. They said: **[quote 13]**

*“...the Church has not found it possible to follow along the lines of the present general tendency in the matter of property rights, taxes, the curtailment of rights and liberties of the people, **nor in general the economic policies of what is termed the “New Deal”...***

“...unless the people of America forsake the sins and the errors, political and otherwise, of which they are now guilty and return to the practice of the great fundamental principles of Christianity, and of Constitutional government, there will be no exaltation for them spiritually, and politically we shall lose our liberty and free institutions...

“...We believe that our real threat comes from within and not from without, and it comes from the underlying spirit common to Naziism, Fascism, and Communism, namely the spirit which would array class against class, which would set up a socialistic state of some sort, which would rob the people of the liberties which we possess under the Constitution, and would set up such a reign of terror as exists now in many parts of Europe...

“... We confess to you that it has not been possible for us to unify our own people even upon the necessity of such a turning about,

and therefore we cannot unfortunately, and we say it regretfully, make any practical suggestion to you as to how the nation can be turned about.”

(Heber J. Grant, also J. Ruben Clark, Jr. and David O. McKay signed as the First Presidency, written during World War II, *Letter to the U.S. Treasury*, September 30, 1941)

Now, some other areas where we have strayed from the Limits of the Constitution:

EDUCATION

President Brigham Young: [quote 14]

“I am opposed to free education as much as I am opposed to taking property from one man and giving it to another.... Would I encourage free schools by taxation? No!”

Journal of Discourses 18:357

President Boyd K. Packer: [quote 15 & 16]

“In many places it is literally not safe physically for youngsters to go to school. And in many schools--and it's becoming almost generally true--it is spiritually unsafe to attend public schools. Look back over the history of education to the turn of the century and the beginning of the educational philosophies....which have led us now into a circumstance **where our schools are producing the problems that we face.**” - BYU, Oct. 9, 1996

“Moral values are being neglected and prayer expelled from public schools on the pretext that moral teaching belongs to religion. At the same time, **atheism, the secular religion, is admitted to class, and our youngsters are proselyted to a conduct without morality.....we are caught in a current so strong that unless we correct our course, civilization as we know it will surely be wrecked to pieces...The distance between the church and a world set on a course which we cannot follow will steadily increase.**” -

Conference, April 1994

Alvin R. Dyer, Counselor to 1st Presidency, in 1969 Conference stated: [quote 17]

“...by the end of the millennium, for those who will occupy the celestial kingdom, the home will be the only medium of teaching children. Teaching will be through the family.”

And what form of government do our public schools teach our children that we have?

And what morals or standards of God are taught in our public schools today?

Proper and Godly education is KEY in helping us understand the Constitution in the tradition of the Founding Fathers and to maintaining FREEDOM.

Because of our ignorance as a nation – we have lost most of our freedom.

Isaiah 5: 13 Therefore **my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge:** and their honourable men *are* famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

D&C 93: 53 And, verily I say unto you, that it is my will that you should hasten to translate my scriptures, and **to obtain a knowledge of history, and of countries, and of kingdoms, of laws of God and man,** and all this for the salvation of Zion. Amen

How soon after the Constitution was ratified that it's enemies began to seek it's destruction?

When did our nation really change it's form of government and officially trample the Constitution?

During the Civil War.

Why did Joseph Smith feel a need to run for President of the United States?

In fact, in the early 1800's this revelation was given to Joseph Smith as one of the main warnings that early missionaries were supposed to be giving as they preached:

D&C 42: 64 And even now, let him that goeth to the east teach them that shall be converted to flee to the west, and **this in consequence of that which is coming on the earth**, and of **secret combinations**.

So – why is the Book of Mormon so very important for us to read and understand?

In August of 2005 President Hinckley asked the entire Church to re-read the Book of Mormon by the end of the year. This is what he said in that Ensign article to kick off this effort: **[quote 18]**

*“The Book of Mormon narrative is a chronicle of nations long since gone. **But in its descriptions of the problems of today’s society, it is as current as the morning newspaper and much more definitive, inspired, and inspiring concerning the solutions of those problems.***

“I know of no other writing which sets forth with such clarity the tragic consequences to societies that follow courses contrary to the

*commandments of God. Its pages trace the stories of two distinct civilizations that flourished on the Western Hemisphere. Each began as a small nation, its people walking in the fear of the Lord. But with prosperity came growing evils. **The people succumbed to the wiles of ambitious and scheming leaders who oppressed them with burdensome taxes, who lulled them with hollow promises, who countenanced and even encouraged loose and lascivious living. These evil schemers led the people into terrible wars that resulted in the death of millions and the final and total extinction of two great civilizations in two different eras.***

*“No other written testament so clearly illustrates the fact that when men and nations walk in the fear of God and in obedience to His commandments, they prosper and grow, **but when they disregard Him and His word, there comes a decay that, unless arrested by righteousness, leads to impotence and death.** The Book of Mormon is an affirmation of the Old Testament proverb: “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people” (Prov. 14:34).*

*“The God of heaven spoke to these people of the Americas through prophets, telling them where true security could be found: “Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation **shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ**” (Ether 2:12).*

Another word for “scheming people” would be “conspiracies” or “Secret Combinations”. Secret Combinations is the 4th most referred-to topic in the Book of Mormon. It is in this record where we read what destroyed every nation that has been upon the Americas: [quote 19]

Ether 8: 18-25

18 And it came to pass that **they formed a secret combination**, even as they of old; which combination is most abominable and wicked above all, in the sight of God;

19 For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations, **neither doth he will that man should shed blood** [*i.e. War*], but in all things hath forbidden it, from the beginning of man....

21 And **they have caused the destruction of this people** of whom I am now speaking, and also the destruction of the people of Nephi.

22 And **whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations, to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold, they shall be destroyed...**

23 Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, **which are built up to get power and gain...**

24 Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, **when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation**, because of **this secret combination which shall be among you...**

25 For it cometh to pass that **whoso buildeth it up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people**, for it is built up by the devil, who is the father of all lies...

President Benson spoke of the reality that our day would parallel the Book of Mormon when he said: **[quote 20]**

“The record of the Nephite history just prior to the Savior’s visit reveals many parallels to our own day as we anticipate the Savior’s second coming. The Nephite civilization had reached great heights. They were prosperous and industrious.....

*“But, as so often happens, the people rejected the Lord. Pride became commonplace. Dishonesty and immorality were widespread. **Secret combinations flourished** because, as Helaman tells us, the Gadianton robbers **“had seduced the more part of the righteous until they had come down to believe in their works and partake of their spoils” (Hel. 6:38).** And “Satan had great power, unto the stirring up of the people to do all manner of iniquity, and to the puffing them up with pride, tempting them to seek for power, and authority, and riches, and the vain things of the world,” **even as today (3 Ne. 6:15).**” (April 1987 General Conference, “The Savior’s Visit To America”)*

We then read in Helaman what the ultimate goal of these Secret Combinations would be:

Helaman 6: 39 And thus **they did obtain the sole management of the government,** insomuch that they did trample under their feet and smite and rend and turn their backs upon the poor and the meek, and the humble followers of God.

And of course, what is one of the definitions of Zion? *“That they had no poor among them”*

Helaman 7: 21 But behold, **it is to get gain,** to be praised of men, yea, and that ye might get gold and silver. And **ye have set your hearts upon the riches and the vain things of this world, for the which ye do murder, and plunder, and steal,** and bear false witness against your neighbor, and do all manner of iniquity.

How can we as Latter-day Saints avoid being like these “righteous Nephites” who began to believe in the works of the Gadianton Robbers and partake of their spoils?

Do you think the “righteous Nephites” were personally murdering people for money? Were they personally robbing others?

Or could it be that they were voting for the Gadianton Politicians who were actually doing all of that because they didn’t understand the Proper Role of Government?

This should cause us deep reflection about our own voting habits.

President Benson once declared *“if you are voting for the lesser of two evils...you are still voting for evil.*

It does not matter if your candidate wins.”

Of course the main method that these Gadiantons used to gain control over the people were – as President Hinckley mentioned – “Burdensome Taxes”.

Do we have Burdensome Taxes today?

At what taxation level does the Book of Mormon equate “burdensome taxation”? “1/5 of all that they possessed”

At what level of taxation does the Book of Mormon equate “slavery” to? “One half of all we possess”.

Are we closer to one half or one fifth in America today?

Indeed, as President Benson said in October 1988 General Conference in his last public testimony before falling silent:

[quote

I testify that wickedness is rapidly expanding in every segment of our society. (See D&C 1:14–16; D&C 84:49–53.) It is more highly organized, more cleverly disguised, and more powerfully promoted than ever before. Secret combinations lusting for power, gain, and glory are flourishing. A secret combination that seeks to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries is increasing its evil influence and control over America and the entire world. (See Ether 8:18–25.)

Have things gotten better or worse since President Benson made that statement in 1988?

At this point in time – we should REALLY be looking to Jesus Christ to deliver us because only He can deliver us from the bondage that we are in.

What we have just learned about was what the Lord gave us through the inspired Founding Fathers to properly govern in a FALLEN world – or in a Telesstial World.

As a patriot and Constitutionalist - I have for a long time focused on "the law of the land" - the Constitution. I have spent many hours studying the Constitution and trying to defend and uphold it. Many wonderful Saints still devote their lives to the Constitution and trying to keep it from being destroyed. But, ask yourself, can principles be destroyed? Knowing our situation and our history and considering where we are right now at this moment and the REAL bondage that we were under - where should our main focus be?

Read this scripture and let me know what you think the Lord is trying to tell us there? [quote 21]

D&C 38:21-33 *I will be your king and watch over you...Hear my voice and follow me, and you shall be a free people, and ye shall*

have no law but my laws when I come, for I am your lawgiver,
*and what can stay my hand? ...The enemy in the secret chambers
seeketh your lives... Ye know not the hearts of men in your own
land...But if ye are prepared ye shall not fear... And that ye might
escape the power of the enemy and be gathered unto me a
righteous people...I will lead [you] whithersoever I will...*

Okay - we have all read the scriptures below. I love, honor and cherish the Constitution and what the Founders gave us...but read carefully these scriptures again and specifically note the word "suffered". Whenever seeking for definitions of words in our scriptures and in Founding documents - it helps to use the Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

D&C 101:

*77 According to the laws and **constitution** of the people, **which I have suffered** [permitted; allowed; not to forbid] **to be established, and should be maintained for the rights and protection of all flesh, according to just and holy principles;***

*78 That every man may act in doctrine and principle pertaining to futurity, according to **the moral agency** which I have given unto him, that every man may be accountable for his own sins in the day of judgment.*

79 Therefore, it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another.

*80 **And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood.***

Notice the Constitution was "suffered" by the Lord to be established. It was dictated by revelation to wise men - the Founders - but still, it was "suffered". It was permitted or allowed by God. Is there a difference in it being "suffered" to be given as opposed to being something God REALLY DESIRED to be put in

place?

We all know that the Founders based our form of Government from a study of the ancient Anglo-Saxons as well as Ancient Israel when they were in the wilderness and Moses needed help to manage and govern the masses. In fact, many like to teach that this is what makes the Constitution divine and holy - in and of itself - because this form of governing came from Moses and Israel.

However, what did Moses really receive for the people of Israel in the wilderness?

Read and Ponder this what Joseph Smith taught: **[quote 22]**

*“When God offers a blessing or knowledge to a man, and he refuses to receive it, he will be damned. The Israelites prayed that God would speak to Moses and not to them; **in consequence of which he cursed them with a carnal law.**” (“Chapter 22: Gaining Knowledge of Eternal Truths,” *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith*, (2007),261–270)*

Couldn't we also now say that God "suffered" the Israelites to have the Law of Moses - because they did not WANT to live a higher law? Might we also consider that this is what was done at the founding of our nation? That because of such wickedness across the earth and the tyrannical governments everywhere - God suffered the Constitution to be established because He knew that it would provide the best opportunity **to restore** the LAW that He really wanted - and still would like to have His children governed by? The Constitution could be considered “the schoolmaster” to bring us to the Law that will govern us in Zion – the Law which governed the people of the city of Enoch.

Which law do we focus upon? Will that law bring us to Zion?

Now, ponder these scriptures:

2 Nephi 2:

5 And men are instructed sufficiently that they know good from evil. And the law is given unto men. And **by the law no flesh is justified; or, by the law men are cut off. Yea, by the temporal law they were cut off; and also, by the spiritual law they perish from that which is good**, and become miserable forever.

6 Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the Holy Messiah; for he is full of grace and truth.

2 Nephi 25:

26 And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, **that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.**

27 Wherefore, we speak concerning the law **that our children may know the deadness of the law**; and they, by knowing **the deadness of the law**, may look forward unto that life which is in Christ, and know for what end the law was given. And after the law is fulfilled in Christ, that **they need not harden their hearts against him when the law ought to be done away.**

What IS that law? Many believe that it is the Higher Law - or the spiritual law, but Nephi taught in 2 Nephi 2:5 that "*and also by the spiritual law they perish from that which is good...and become miserable forever*".

Nephi taught about “the deadness of the law” and that “the law ought to be done away”. Why? Because of the atoning blood of Christ.

“If you love me – keep my commandments.” It can’t get much plainer than that. We obey God to show our love for Him and his Son and to be obedient – not to save ourselves.

Our commandments are much like the Law of Moses. They are

designed to get us to finally acknowledge that despite our best efforts we can't perfectly keep them, they can do nothing to save us. In other words, the law brings failure and punishment. The law – the schoolmaster - was given on purpose to bring us to Christ, to humbles us and show us our NEED for Him. Even after you receive this gift of salvation, are you excused from disobedience? I think the answer is more than obvious. No. In our infantile minds, however, we must keep the commandments to obtain the faith necessary to finally accept Christ.

D&C 88 holds the Key to understanding THE only TRUE LAW God desires – not “suffers” – us to receive. D&C 88 teaches us what the Law of the Celestial Kingdom is - which is also the Law of Zion.

D&C 88:

5 Which glory is that of the church of the Firstborn, even of God, the holiest of all, **through Jesus Christ his Son**—

6 He that ascended up on high, as also he descended below all things, in that he comprehended all things, **that he might be in all and through all things, the light of truth [Christ];**

7 **Which truth shineth. This is the light of Christ.** As also he is in the sun, and the light of the sun, and **the power thereof** by which it was made...

11 **And the light which shineth, which giveth you light, is through him who enlighteneth your eyes, which is the same light that quickeneth your understandings;**

12 Which light proceedeth forth from the presence of God to fill the immensity of space—

13 **The light [Jesus Christ] which is in all things, which giveth life to all things, which is the law by which all things are governed,** even the power of God who sitteth upon his

throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things. ..

21 And they who are not sanctified through the law which I have given unto you, even the law of Christ, must inherit another kingdom, even that of a terrestrial kingdom, or that of a celestial kingdom.

22 For he who is not able to abide the law of a celestial kingdom cannot abide a celestial glory.

Jesus Christ IS the Law – His Life, His Love, His Atoning Blood, His Merits, His Mercy. He alone has ALL POWER TO SAVE ALL MANKIND – “for Christ came not into the world to condemn the world – but that through Him ALL mankind may be saved”. We either believe Him, trust in Him and look to Him and hence are governed by Him – or we don’t. **If we can’t be governed by Christ and LOVE – then we must be governed by law.**

[quote 23]

Moroni 8:17 And I am filled with charity, which is everlasting love...

Alma 7:24 And see that ye have faith, hope, and **charity**, and then ye will always abound in good works.

A focus on God and His love (the pure love of Christ) should be our ONLY governance. This is true freedom – not living under “laws” created to control us. We should only be governed by LOVE and our own relationship with God and our love for Him. This is what the Founding Fathers also believed and why they created the Constitution – to allow us the freedom to do so.

It is only the Gospel of Jesus Christ – His Law of Christ like love that can bring the world peace. In conclusion, we will read at quote from Elder John. A. Widtsoe as quoted from a reprint of one of his talks in the April 09 Ensign.

The world is in a disturbed condition. There is discouragement everywhere. No man seems to see the end from the beginning...

There is a world cry for peace; everybody wants peace... Yet it begins to look as if we are farther away from peace ...

We cannot begin with peace; we must begin with the philosophy or the system which, if accepted and honored, will lead to peace. Failure to understand that seems to be the error of the nations at this time, of the organizations and conventions of nations [i.e. the League of Nations or the United Nations, etc...], assembled in great meetings on this side and the other side of the Atlantic. They have so far failed to touch upon the foundations of peace... They clamor for the peace they want, without yielding obedience to the methods by which that peace may be obtained.

*The Latter-day Saints, from the beginning of our history, have taught that the good things of life, above all, peace, **can come only through acceptance of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.** ..That has been our message from the beginning of the restoration of the gospel in this day. We still proclaim without hesitation, that **there is only one way to peace, one way to the perfect human happiness, the way of the gospel, paved with the principles that constitute the gospel.***

*We make a further claim, brethren and sisters. It is a claim that often makes us hesitant in stating it, because it is so vast in its meaning, in its implications. We claim that this people, this Church, organized by God's own voice in this generation, possesses the only system of truth containing all of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. **Then, by that token, there can be no full peace, no complete happiness upon earth, until the men and women of the world accept the great latter-day message.** We stand humbly before this claim, I know, but it is our claim. The Lord has said so. [End of excerpt] I*

n the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.