

BH Porter
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John 16:1-7

Jesus Warns the Apostles
Discussion about the Holy Ghost

Jesus is continuing with His warnings and counsel that they (the Apostles) will encounter hate and opposition from the leaders in the cities and towns in which they will be teaching.

Remember, this is a special meeting; Jesus is telling the Apostles that they will be hated. They are probably wondering why they will be hated because they had not been doing anything wrong. Judaism has come a long way since the temple period. They have come through generations of change and tradition. Tradition is what held them together, and tradition is what is keeping them away from the restored Gospel right now. Those traditions are so strong even today...just like the ancient Pharisees there are those who want to be seen as being more righteous and pious than others.

1 These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.

2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

John 16:1. I have told you these things that you might not be scandalized.

[Trip up on this or that point. They are all minor, but have dire effects.

What he has said should bind the Apostles very closely to him and to each other and put them on a steady course. They will have to cling together because they will have nothing else to cling to:

2. They are going to put you out of the Synagogues.

[Why had not Jesus come forth as a high official ;or dignitary of the Jews?

He could easily have achieved eminence, and was often threatened with it, but was quite to turn adulation aside, angling, puzzling and distressing

the public and his own followers. *All n accepted him - banned Synagogues*

His was a very different goal from that of aspiring men.

How OUTSIDE of the official establishment he was is seen in the next verse:

2. There will come a time when anyone who kills you will believe he is performing a service for God. (read 150 yrs. of anti-Mormon lit., 90% by minister

[The worst enemies of the Gospel at all times have NOT been the atheists:

Satan ordered Cain to make a sacrifice to the LORD, and made his followers swear faithfulness by the Living God. He boasts to Moses: I too am a Son

of God. "For the Devils believe and tremble."

Deus vult of the Crusades becomer. Kill a gook for God^x.

Notice: the greatest threat or opposition will come from the ministers — those who are to be teaching and preaching the Christian faith. There's a Christian radio channel I listen to very often, and every 30 minutes, they are selling anti-Mormon DVD's and CD's. There's even a former bishop and his wife who have left the church and are spreading their anti-Mormon literature on this station.

Question for you: Whose responsibility is it to teach morals and values to a child?

Right. The child's parents. Morals and values are usually faith-based, which is connected to religious freedom. Each parent has the right to teach the morals and values that they believe in. What is happening today, however, is that public schools, state and federally funded schools, have now stepped into the position of teaching their morals and values to our youth. For Example, they are teaching that LGBTQ lifestyles are OK, and if we don't accept them, then we

are not in compliance with these socially, and politically correct teachings. There was once a separation of church and state, but what has subtly occurred, in essence, is the schools are now taking on the roll of teaching our children the accepted values and morals of the masses, thus usurping the roll of the parents. They are combining the once separate rolls of church and state, and are teaching what the morals and values are to be for the rising generation. At the same time religious freedom is being threatened or done away with in some cases. Parents are losing or have lost the right to teach their child what their “faith” says is correct. In essence, the state supported schools and teachers are now teaching their ‘religion’ based on *their* morals and values—not mine.

Comment: *Atheism is a religion, too.*

That is right. What I’m saying is the state is now stepping in place of a parent, and a parent’s faith-based religion, morals and values. Yet, at the same time, they are mandating there must be a separation of church and state. What we are seeing is the state now teaching morals and values. Freedom of speech is allowed in the parking lots and public areas, but when the schools begin teaching their own ‘faith-based’ religion, then that freedom is being misused. If you want to look at it another way, the state is beginning to teach an ‘anti-Christ based religion’. It comes down to the philosophies of Babylon, verses the philosophies of Zion.

You may remember that Korihor, in our Book of Mormon, was “Anti-Christ, for he began to preach unto the people against the prophecies which had been spoken by the prophets concerning the coming of Christ.” (Alma 30:6) When broken down, the first half of his preaching was against the faith of an individual, and the second half of his philosophy was against organized religion. See Below: [From An Everlasting Decree, BH Porter, 2012, p 250-254]

Alma 30:	Korihor's Philosophies / Teachings / Implications
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Religion is a “vain and foolish” hope – Why do you look for a Christ? Don't waste your life. – No man can know of things to come.
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Prophecies are foolish traditions of the past
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – One cannot know prophecies are true – One cannot understand things he cannot see – One cannot know that Christ exists
16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Belief in the Atonement is the effect of a “frenzied mind”. – Teachings about the Atonement are just erroneous traditions of the fathers. – Religious traditions and beliefs are of things which are not so.
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No Atonement can be made for sins, therefore the Atonement cannot exist. – Man is on his own – without God – Man prospers according to his own ability and knowledge – Man conquers because of his own strength, not by God – Whatever a man chooses to do is no crime to man – God does not exist – Man becomes his own God
18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – [The belief that God does not exist, and his abilities are the best we can hope for, leads many away from the truth, causing many to lift up their heads in wickedness, causing women and men to commit whoredoms.] – If God does not exist then death is the end of all life

Alma 30:	Korihor's Philosophies / Teachings / Implications
23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Religious beliefs bind people down and are foolish – Ordinances and performances of righteousness were invented to usurp power and authority – Priests only teach these things to keep the people in ignorance and under their control
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Because of faith and religion, people are not free but are in bondage – Again, Korihor says the scriptures are not true
25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Man cannot be fallen from God because of a transgression of a parent (Adam) – There was no consequence that was passed onto Adam's posterity (in other words, there was no Fall.)
26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There cannot be a Christ – Christ cannot pay for the sins of the world
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Religion is to keep people in bondage or control – Religion exists to steal from the faithful – Religion takes away the rights and privileges of believers – Men ought to be able to act how they want without guilt
28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Religion requires giving of time and money to others – Religion instills fear of offending the priests – Religion 'yokes' the believer to whatever priest desires for control – All religion is founded upon traditions, dreams, whims, visions and pretended mysteries. – Religion forces guilt upon the believer by suggesting he can offend an unseen or unknowable Being (God) – He never has been seen or known – he never was or ever will be.

These are the 36 anti-Christ philosophies taught by Korihor as he sought to take away the freedom of the people by taking God, faith, and religion from their lives. He sought to destroy the doctrines of salvation by teaching that God does not exist. And based upon this, Korihor taught:

- **there was no fall, and therefore there is**
- **no sin or guilt, so**
- **no Atonement is necessary and thus**
- **Christ does not exist, and**
- **there is no resurrection because**
- **Death is the final end. (see v 17-18)**

If God does not exist, then the doctrines of the anti-Christ provide the reason to trust in the arm of flesh, and every 'moral choice' then becomes a civil right. These teachings of Korihor have become the foundation of modern political platforms that stress political views as freedoms and choices, and which are contrary to the laws of God, thus turning some sins into "Freedoms", "Choice" and "Civil Rights". And who doesn't want freedoms, choice and rights? These political strategies do not consider the scriptures as the word of God, but only 'foolish traditions' of the past and antiquated thoughts and mores. These philosophies are the teachings of anti-Christ. Again, ask yourselves why Mormon included this story of Korihor in his record for the Latter-day Saint readers to read and ponder?

John 16:3-4

3 And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

4 But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.

3. They will do that because they don't know either the Father or me.

4. I am telling you now, so that when the time comes you will remember that I told you.

[Without that--paradoxical failure for the Work of God; utter frustration.

But we have been told it all ahead of time. We see terrible things happening on all sides today, including all sorts of corruption and immorality in our midst. Don't be discouraged--it has all be prophesied, including the dire conclusion that must follow.

God knows what is going on. He knew what was going to happen before anything was even created. He knows the end from the beginning. God's plan is in place. Our choice is whether or not we will be on the Lord's side. (See Exodus 32:26; Joshua 24:15) It's what Moses asked the children of Israel 1300 years before Christ. The Book of Mormon tells us that there are only two churches: the Church of the Lamb of God and the Church of the devil (1 Ne 14:10).

10 And he said unto me: Behold there are save **two churches** only; the one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations; and she is the whore of all the earth.

Rule of the Remnant

You can always tell where the masses are going. You cannot always determine where the individual is going. This comes back to the rule of the remnant — there is always a remnant that is spared. We sometimes think the church is a remnant of the world, but that is not the case. There is a remnant within the church. We have to decide if we are part of the masses or are we part of the remnant? Isaiah was told that the remnant was about 10%. In likening the ten virgins to the church, President Kimball reasoned that of those ten, only 50% of the church would qualify for salvation. Elijah was discouraged after his mission. He felt he was the only one of the children of Israel who did not bow down to the gods of Baal. The Lord's voice came unto Elijah and told him, "Yet I have left *me* **seven thousand** in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him." (1 Kings 19:13-18) Those seven thousand were the remnant. The remnant are those who are repenting.

We worry so much about the events of last days described in the Book of Revelation. Look, those events described in the Book of Revelation are written to scare the wicked, not the righteous! The righteous are told not to worry, they will be spared. We worry too much about our temporal existence concerning the events of the last days. To me, that is crazy! If we're in the last days, then our preparation ought to be spiritual; we ought to be repenting all the time! We ought to be expecting to meet the Savior at any moment — that's when the Second Coming comes — it's whenever we die. We spend so much time worrying about the temporal aspects and forget to put the Book of Mormon in the year's supply.

5 But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? (**none of you are asking the right questions!**)

6 But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart. (**They are depressed.**)

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient (**necessary**) for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

5. Now I am going back to the One who sent me; and don't any of you ask me where
6 I am going? What I have told you already has made you very sad.
7. But I was only telling you the truth, because it is to your advantage that I go. If I did not go, the Paraclete would not come to you,

Jesus is explaining that it is necessary that He departs, that He returns back to the One who sent Him. If He doesn't go then the *Paraclete* (Par-a-cle'-te) [the Holy Ghost, i.e., Comforter] would not come to them. The witness of the Holy Ghost is much stronger than even a vision or a manifestation of Christ.

Question: *Why was it that the Holy Ghost could not or did not come while Christ was present?*

A: Because one member of the Godhead is already there. In scripture, we do not see the outpouring of the Holy Ghost until Pentecost. The people could feel the Spirit, but the Gift of the Holy Ghost could not come until after Jesus had departed from the earth. This also brings up the question concerning Judas — did he really have a witness of the Holy Ghost to make him a son of Perdition? It's like those who hate Mormons — have they had enough of a witness of the Holy Ghost to know that what they are doing is wrong? Or, what about our children who fall away— will there be that empty chair at the table in the eternities? Remember, no one can be judged until they understand the Gospel Plan perfectly because agency requires a perfect understanding of the Plan of Salvation and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If that was not the case then their agency would be compromised or restricted. Perfect agency requires a perfect understanding. We really don't need to worry or be anxious about them, because everyone, before the resurrection, will have the opportunity to learn and comprehend the Plan of Happiness perfectly without any misunderstanding.

Comment: *Certainly the prophets of the Old Testament and those in the Book of Mormon who predated the appearance of Christ must have had the influence of the Holy Ghost?*

There are three prepositions that describe the Holy Ghost — it can be “on” you, “in” you, and “with” you. In the *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, Joseph said,

There is a difference between the Holy Ghost and the gift of the Holy Ghost. Cornelius received the Holy Ghost before he was baptized, which was the convincing power of God unto him of the truth of the Gospel, but he could not receive the gift of the Holy Ghost until after he was baptized. (TPJS, p 199)

Cornelius, an Italian, was a Gentile and a Roman Centurion. Paul was in Joppa and had a dream that he was to take the Gospel to the Gentiles. Like Cornelius, the Holy Ghost can come *upon* someone for inspiration and direction. It can be *with you* as a Comforter, but to be *in you* requires the ordinance of the gift of the Holy Ghost.

When the Holy Ghost is in you, it acts as a purifier. It is what cleanses you from your sins, not baptism by water. Moroni 6:4 says:

4 And after they had been received unto baptism, and *were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost*, . . .

Again, the Holy Ghost can be *in you* as the Third Member of the Godhead; to come *on you* for inspiration or to be *with you* as a Comforter does not require an ordinance or even membership in the Church.

Question: So, Abraham did not have the Holy Ghost?

Actually, he did. His dispensation was under a Melchizedek order. From Moses until the time of Christ, the children of Israel were under an Aaronic Order. In D&C 84:25-27, we learn that the Holy Priesthood (Melchizedek) was taken out of their midst, and what remained was the “lesser priesthood”, and that order continued with the children of Israel until the time of Christ and John the Baptist. The lost the blessing of the Melchizedek Priesthood and the ordinance to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost belongs to that Melchizedek Priesthood.

Question: Is the Spirit mentioned in the sacrament prayer the Holy Ghost?

It is. Remember, Joseph Smith taught we cannot receive the gift of the Holy Ghost until we have been baptized. We have to enter into a covenant of obedience until we receive a gift. Partaking of the sacrament is a renewal of the covenant of obedience we entered into at our baptism. We covenant to be obedient to the commandments of God, that we “may have His Spirit to be with us”. (D&C 20:77)

We’re out of time and we need to finish up. Remember the rule in this class is don’t believe a word I say — you have the scriptures. Use the scriptures as your standard. I should not be anyone’s standard. But...know that I know the Gospel is true and real. I say it over and over, and I cannot stress it enough the importance for individuals to come unto Christ.

What’s been on my mind, lately, that when we walk through those Temple doors, it is as though there is no more Church; there are no more congregations. When you walk through the doors of the Temple you need to pretend it is only you and the Lord, alone. You are not a member of the Church. You just need to think, “I am a Christian, and I am coming to make covenants before my God.” No one else matters. This is why you can take your recommend and attend any Temple in the world. You cannot go and give a talk in any church building in the world unless you are approved. You cannot exercise authority in any Stake or give a fireside in any stake unless someone approves you being there. However, you can go to any Temple in the world with that recommend and never be questioned about a thing. That is the way the Temple is; there is no congregation and no Church in the Temple.

We attend mostly with other people because of the ease of teaching to the groups, but you need to be thinking that you are the only one in attendance. The things going on are between you and your God. Afterward, we then cannot come out and say, “The church does not require us to live the law of consecration or any of the other laws we have covenanted to obey.” The Church doesn’t require those things, and the Church cannot require them. You did not make a covenant with the Church— you made a covenant with God. It’s all a matter between you and God, that’s it. It’s a different world behind those Temple doors.

Know that I know the Church is a true as the Gospel. Under the direction of God and revelation, it is the only authorized authority to administer the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our focus is to “come unto Christ” and partake of that atonement.

There are 31 verses in Genesis that talk about the creation and how the creation took place, and the rest of the scriptures are to instruct us, now that we’re here in this environment, how to get back to God. This is what we are to focus on. This I say in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.