

# Patterns of Intelligence

## CHAPTER 4

### OTHER LESSONS FROM THE STORY OF KORIHOR

In addition to the fact that the theory of evolution is a mirror-image of gospel truth, we need to also consider the context under which Korihor preached and to look at other lessons we can learn from the account of Korihor.

For example, Korihor had face-to-face run-ins with two major prophets: first Ammon and second, Alma the Younger. The run-in with Alma the Younger eventually led to the death of Korihor.

The fact that two major prophets were directly involved with Korihor adds a significant amount of emphasis to the importance of the story of Korihor and to the importance of listening to the living prophets.

These run-ins show the contrast between good and evil and show the rebellion and stubbornness of Korihor. They teach all members of the church to follow their prophets, and not to challenge their teachings. The prophets have the priesthood "keys" and **God will not permit them lead the church astray**, so we need not worry about the leadership or doctrines of the prophets!!

Here is a quote by an apostle who would later become the prophet:

"You may not like what comes from the authority of the Church [the Prophet]. It may contradict your political views ... [or] your social views. It may interfere with some of your social life. But if [we] listen to these things, *as if from the mouth of the Lord himself*, with patience and faith, the promise is that . . . 'the Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness from before you, and cause the heavens to shake for your good, and his name's glory'."

Harold B. Lee, in Conference Report, Oct. 1970, 152; or Improvement Era, Dec. 1970, 126

Why should we listen to the prophet "*as if from the mouth of the Lord himself*?"

It is not because the prophet is perfect, it is because the Savior is perfect and He will not let the prophet lead the church astray.

The members of the church are taught not to pick and choose which doctrines to believe and follow. They are taught to trust the Lord that He, the Lord, will keep the doctrines of the church pure.

Another lesson from the story of Korihor is that his followers used his doctrines to justify committing all kinds of moral transgressions. In fact, Korihor's teachings included the claim that there are no moral laws and no Judgment Day. This teaching may have been a recruiting magnet so that many would follow his teachings.

Could the theory of evolution today justify many youth and adults to commit sins of immorality? Yes it can because it teaches there is no God, and that there is no life after death; thus a person could easily conclude that there was no Judgment Day.

In fact, this is one of the precise warnings the story of Korihor teaches:

18 And thus he did preach unto them, leading away the hearts of many, causing them to lift up their heads in their wickedness, yea, leading away many women, and also men, [to commit whoredoms](#)--telling them that [when a man was dead, that was the end thereof](#).  
Alma 30:18

There is a direct connection made in this verse between wickedness and a belief that there is no life after death.

For those who may have fallen into Korihor's trap today, which means Darwin's trap, the nature of God will be discussed in a later chapter. But for now, rest assured if anyone has fallen into Darwin's trap they can change. God loves His children so He wants every one of us to succeed and He will do His part to make that happen!!

Another lesson to be learned has to do with the physical condition of Korihor and what he was doing when he was killed. First of all, he was deaf because he refused to recant on what he had said to the public. The prophet Alma the Younger commanded him to become deaf.

Obviously, it is not likely a youth or adult will become deaf for supporting the theory of evolution; however, the spiritual damage to a person for supporting the theory of evolution or other false doctrines could be [far more damaging](#) than becoming deaf!! For example, the priceless gift of going on a mission may be rejected because of a lack of testimony in living prophets.

Fortunately, the mercy of God can be with us even if we have made past mistakes. More will be said about this later.

Finally, Korihor was killed by wicked people who not only didn't give him money, as he was begging, but were callous enough to disregard his safety.

People who do not follow the prophets frequently end up in "bad company." This "bad company" can have many ramifications that are not good, including the possibility of injury or death from drugs, alcohol, accidents, etc. (Note: Youth are sometimes injured or killed when they are in [very good](#) company, so the injury or death of a person is [not in any way](#) a proof of wrong-doing or choosing the wrong company.)

Thus, the Book of Mormon was not only predicting the coming forth of the false doctrines of the theory of evolution, but also the scriptures use the context of Korihor to emphasize the importance of several key gospel concepts. These concepts provide additional reasons as to why the account of Korihor is in the Book of Mormon!!

The account of Korihor in the Book of Mormon was and is a stern warning to members of the modern church as to the potential damages caused by believing in false doctrines and in not following their ordained leaders.

Because of the account of Korihor, the Book of Mormon was predicting that false and anti-Christ doctrines would be coming down the road. That very prophesy was fulfilled in 1859, less than three decades after its publication in 1830!! And it has been fulfilled many times since 1859.

Remember this very important point: the first major published book on this planet to accurately and in detail describe the theory of evolution was the Book of Mormon. But it did this not as a compliment, [but as a prophetic warning of its false and dangerous doctrines!!](#)