

Prophetic Book of Mormon Warnings Of Anti-Christ Doctrines in the Latter-Days

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Introduction

Within the pages of the Book of Mormon are many stories about the enemies of the church and kingdom of God. Some of these enemies were military enemies and others were spiritual enemies. Some of the enemies were named, but most were not.

But of all the enemies of the people of God throughout the Book of Mormon; only one enemy was given the unique title of: anti-Christ.

The anti-Christ was Korihor, who was a contemporary of Alma the Younger, Ammon, and others. The story of Korihor is described in Alma chapter 30 and occurred in 74 B.C.

The spiritual dangers of the doctrines of Korihor were summarized by the prophet Alma the Younger. Alma said to Korihor:

*42 Behold, I know that thou believest, but thou art possessed with a lying spirit, and ye have put off the Spirit of God that it may have no place in you; but the devil has power over you, and he doth carry you about, working devices that he may destroy the children of God.
Alma 30:42 [Alma the Younger]*

With this strong warning about the potential effects of the doctrines of Korihor, and knowing that the Book of Mormon was compiled for our day, the teachings of Korihor provide us with a template for what false doctrines today are considered by God to be "anti-Christ."

So what dangerous and false doctrines today can be compared to the teachings of Korihor?

As will be shown in this article, the doctrines of Korihor are again on this earth because of the theory of evolution. This is significant because the Book of Mormon was published almost 30 years before Darwin's famous book on evolution was published!!

It is as if the Book of Mormon, via the account of Korihor, was making prophetic warnings of the coming forth of the theory of evolution and was preparing church members for a modern-day onslaught of anti-Christ doctrines.

A Background of the Theory of Evolution

The theory of evolution, or simply "evolution," is a theory which started to be publicly debated in 1859 as a result of the book: On the Origin of Species¹, by Charles Darwin.

Charles Darwin believed that all living things, including human beings, came to exist by "natural" events, unaided by God. For example, he believed humans descended from primitive species of animals and had not been created by God. Darwin's theories amounted to an attack on the Biblical account of the creation of Adam and Eve and thus they were an attack on the Bible itself.

But not all scientists in the days of Darwin agreed with his theories. One major scientific critic of Darwin, among his contemporaries, was Louis Agassiz.²

Agassiz has been held by many to be the greatest naturalist in his time and to this day is known as the "Father of the Ice Age." Yet Agassiz had a strong belief in God and never did support the theory of evolution.

While Darwin's works have been glorified in today's world; many of the works of Agassiz have been ignored "because he tenaciously held that nature was the result of divine thought."

Darwin used the works of Agassiz in entomology in his Origin book and he held Agassiz in high regard: "What set of men you have in Cambridge! Why, there is Agassiz -- he counts for three." Darwin mentions Agassiz in his Origin book several times.

Agassiz said of Darwin: "[Darwin] overstepped the boundaries of actual knowledge and allowed his imagination to supply the links which science does not furnish."

Agassiz also said: "facts are the words of God, and we may heap them together endlessly, but they will teach us little or nothing till we place them in their true relations, and recognize the thought that binds them together."

Agassiz died in 1873. In 1877, Agassiz, along with George Washington and other prominent men, appeared to Elder Wilford Woodruff in the St. George, Utah temple requesting baptism and the priesthood.

Official LDS Doctrine

Elder Russell M. Nelson, of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, summarized the theory of evolution in this way:

"Through the ages, some without scriptural understanding have tried to explain our existence by pretentious words such as ex nihilo (out of nothing). Others have deduced that, because of certain similarities between different forms of life, there has been a natural selection of the species, or organic evolution from one form to another. Many of these people have concluded that the universe began as a "big bang" that eventually resulted in the creation of our planet and life upon it.

To me, such theories are unbelievable! Could an explosion in a printing shop produce a dictionary? It is unthinkable! Even if it could be argued to be within a remote realm of possibility, such a dictionary could certainly not heal its own torn pages or renew its own worn corners or reproduce its own subsequent editions!

We are children of God, created by him and formed in his image."
Russell M. Nelson, "The Magnificence of Man," Ensign, Jan. 1988, 64

Elder Nelson's comments reflect the fact that the LDS church has always taught that the theory of evolution is not in any way compatible with its doctrines. As an example, LDS doctrine makes it very clear that our spirits are literally the children of God and that in time we have the potential to become like our Heavenly Parents.³

Many scientists, both inside and outside of the LDS church, do not support the theory of evolution. In fact, there are many science books which are very, very critical of the theory of evolution from a scientific standpoint and would fully support the quote of Elder Nelson.⁴ These books are frequently referred to as: anti-evolution books.

Modern Evolutionary Theory

DNA is the large molecule inside of every cell which has the instructions for life. DNA is composed of a long chain of pairs of molecules called "nucleotides." The pattern, meaning the ordering and length, of the four types of nucleotides in the DNA of all plant and animal species, determines the physical characteristics of each plant and animal. Humans also have DNA which has an incredibly complex coding of 3 billion pairs of nucleotides.

Because of the discovery of DNA in 1953, modern evolutionary theory must account for the unique DNA of every species, including human DNA. To do this, two assumptions must be made by evolution. First, the prime assumption of evolution is that totally directionless and random mutations (i.e. accidental errors) in nucleotides led to the creation of millions of unique species (Note: the "accidental errors" in nucleotides are similar to the "explosion" Elder Nelson spoke of). The second assumption is that "natural selection" selected the strongest of the species, as they came to exist, for survival.

The fact is that there is absolutely zero evidence in all the scientific literature, including evolution literature, which supports the prime assumption of evolution that randomness can create the patterns necessary to create massively sophisticated information and intelligence which are coded on DNA. In fact, computer simulations have verified that patterns of randomness cannot create patterns of intelligence.⁵

Without any scientific evidence for the prime assumption, the scientific establishment must revert to their imaginations to come up with "evidence" for the theory of evolution.

As examples, the scientific establishment:

- 1) Assumes evolution is true and then claims it has been proven to be true;
- 2) Gives the theory of evolution credit for all new discoveries in paleontology, genetics and biology; without one shred of evidence for this allocation of credit;
- 3) Uses their power in the schools and media to distract attention away from the massive flaws in the theory of evolution (Note: many of the flaws are described in the anti-evolution books);
- 4) Uses examples from microevolution (which is a true phenomenon, but it has absolutely nothing to do with evolution) to provide "evidence" for evolution (e.g. Darwin's finches are examples of microevolution, not evolution);
- 5) Uses the morphology of bone structures of fossils, combined with their vivid imaginations, as evidence for evolution; without any analysis of how different the DNA of the species must have been and how evolution could have bridged the DNA differences using random mutations.

None of these claims deal with the problems of the prime assumption of evolution, yet the prime assumption is the entire foundation of "Neo-Darwinism" (meaning post-DNA Darwinism)! In fact, scientists have never observed any evidence for the prime assumption of evolution.

Because of the failure of the prime assumption; and the fact that there are at least seven reasons that it is impossible the theory of evolution could have happened on this planet, or on any other planet;⁶ the theory of evolution is not only unproven, but it has been definitively shown to be scientifically false.

So why does the scientific establishment work so hard to cover-up the flaws in evolution and to use their imaginations (as Agassiz accused Darwin of doing) and authority "to supply the links which science does not furnish?"

During a television series on evolution on UCTV (University of California Television) a well-known author, creation scientist and attorney, Phillip E. Johnson, made the following statement about the theory of evolution:

"Science is committed to philosophical naturalism and therefore science must assume that no Creator, and no purposeful intelligence, is behind our existence ... All that science can address is the question of: 'granted that we are here as a result of purposeless material mechanisms, what's the most plausible purposeless material mechanism that we can imagine?'"

Phillip E. Johnson, author, attorney; quoted on UCTV

What Mr. Johnson is saying is that the first and primary commitment of "science" (i.e. the scientific establishment) is to promote "philosophical naturalism." Given that their primary commitment is to philosophical naturalism, they use the theory of evolution as their "most plausible purposeless material mechanism" to win converts to philosophical naturalism.

Some people claim that philosophical naturalism is not the same thing as atheism. They are the same thing. From their proposed accidental Big Bang all the way to human beings, the scientific establishment completely ridicules the existence of a Supreme Being. Philosophical naturalism is nothing but atheism hiding behind a mask of political correctness.

The theory of evolution can be thought of as a circle within a circle. The inner circle contains philosophical naturalism, which is the heart and soul of evolution. The outside circle consists of totally bogus science which is designed to convince people to believe in philosophical naturalism.

Understanding Mr. Johnson's statement explains why the scientific establishment has no interest in an unbiased quest for scientific truth; namely they want people to become disciples of philosophical naturalism.

While Mr. Johnson explained the relationship between the theory of evolution and philosophical naturalism; the purpose of this article is to demonstrate that the doctrines of the anti-Christ Korihor, in the Book of Mormon, and the doctrines of the theory of evolution (i.e. philosophical naturalism) are identical.

Natural Selection

Perhaps the best-known element of the theory of evolution is "natural selection" or "survival of the fittest." This theory is that animals and humans survive on the basis of their cunning and strength. Korihor is described as teaching:

*17 ... but every man fared in this life according to the management of the creature; therefore every man prospered according to his genius, and that every man conquered according to his strength; ...
Alma 30:17 [description of Korihor's teachings]*

This statement sounds like it came right out of a modern evolution textbook, but it was a teaching of Korihor in 74 B.C. and is quoted in the Book of Mormon.

LDS doctrine, however, is the antithesis of natural selection. This next verse represents numerous verses in the Book of Mormon, either by precept or by example:

*20 And [the Lord] hath said that: Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land; but inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from my presence.
2 Nephi 1:20 [Lehi]*

It is God who determines which civilizations survive and which do not. Civilizations do not survive because of the cunning of their leaders or the power of their military. The survival of a nation is based on the willingness of its citizens to love God, keep His commandments and follow His living prophets (see Moses 7:13-21),⁷ coupled with God's purposes and His timetables.

Neither Korihor's teachings, nor the teachings of evolution today, are based on faith in the power of God to save or destroy civilizations.

The Existence of God

The religion of evolution rejects all "supernatural" events (i.e. events "above nature," meaning events caused by God) because evolution scientists cannot replicate the miracles of God in their labs and thus they conclude no supernatural events have ever existed. By rejecting that any supernatural events have ever occurred; philosophical naturalism (i.e. science) is claiming that no "supernatural" being has ever existed. Rejecting the existence of a "supernatural" being is the same thing as rejecting the existence of God.

Korihor also rejected the existence of God.

28 Yea, [the members of the church] durst not make use of that which is their own lest they should offend their priests, who do yoke them according to their desires, and have brought them to believe, by their traditions and their dreams and their whims and their visions and their pretended mysteries, that they should, if they did not do according to their words, offend some unknown being, who they say is God--a being who never has been seen or known, who never was nor ever will be.

Alma 30:28 [Korihor]

Korihor emphasized that God does not exist because He "never has been seen or known," and that God is an "unknown being." Korihor also claimed that God "never was nor ever will be." Evolution teaches the same doctrines.

Jesus Christ

For this next quote, remember that Korihor lived before the time of Christ, thus his comments about Christ have to do with His future birth:

6 [Korihor came into] the land of Zarahemla, and he 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. ...

13 O ye that are bound down under a foolish and a vain hope, why do ye yoke yourselves with such foolish things? Why do ye look for a Christ? For no man can know of anything which is to come.

14 Behold, these things which ye call prophecies, which ye say are handed down by holy prophets, behold, they are foolish traditions of your fathers.

15 How do ye know of their surety? Behold, ye cannot know of things which ye do not see; therefore ye cannot know that there shall be a Christ.

Alma 30:6, 13-15 [Korihor]

Korihor did not believe in a Christ ("Why do ye look for a Christ?" and "ye cannot know that there shall be a Christ"). This is part of the reason Korihor was referred to as an "anti-Christ."

The theory of evolution has always been considered "anti-Christ" because it has always claimed that humans were descended from primates. Evolution today views Christ as nothing more than a historical teacher and leader.

Another reason Korihor was considered to be an anti-Christ is because he proactively "began to preach unto the people against the prophecies which had been spoken by the prophets, concerning the coming of Christ."

Note the insults which Korihor used for those who believe in God and follow His prophets, such as: "bound down," "yoke yourselves," "foolish and a vain hope," "foolish things," "foolish traditions," "foolish ordinances" (verse 23), and "silly traditions" (verse 31).

Similarly, the evolution establishment is very proactive in belittling creation scientists who believe that God planned and created this earth and that God created Adam and Eve. Science preaches that creation scientists are not true scientists because their belief in God cannot be verified by scientific evidence.⁸

Korihor also rejected all prophecies, including those of living prophets: "For no man can know of anything which is to come" and "ye cannot know of things which ye do not see." These sayings of Korihor are consistent with modern-day evolution doctrine which teaches its followers to reject anything which cannot be confirmed by scientific evidence.

Sin, the Atonement and the Plan of Salvation

Here are Korihor's teachings about sin and the atonement:

16 Ye look forward and say that ye see a remission of your sins. But behold, it is the effect of a frenzied mind; and this derangement of your minds comes because of the traditions of your fathers, which lead you away into a belief of things which are not so.

17 And many more such things did he say unto them, telling them that there could be no atonement made for the sins of men, ..., and whatsoever a man did was no crime ...

26 And ye also say that Christ shall come. But behold, I say that ye do not know that there shall be a Christ. And ye say also that he shall be slain for the sins of the world--

Alma 30:16-17, 26 [Korihor]

Korihor is mocking (i.e. "frenzied mind" and "derangement of your minds") the "traditions of your fathers," such as: "there shall be a Christ" and "ye see a remission of your sins." He also mocked "traditions" in verses 28 and 14, quoted above.

The foundation of Darwin's theory of evolution did away with the "traditions of your fathers," such as a belief in the Bible; including a belief in the divine origin of man, the divinity of Christ and the need for a Savior.

Korihor did not believe in the concept of "sin" (i.e. "whatsoever a man did was no crime") and he did not believe in the atonement (i.e. "there could be no atonement") and he did not believe that Christ would suffer for the sins of His people ("ye say also that he shall be slain for the sins of the world").

We see a third reason for Korihor's title of anti-Christ; the total rejection of all things related to the Plan of Salvation, of which the atonement is central.

Modern evolutionary theory does not challenge the birth of Christ, since His birth is a historical fact; but it makes no mention of the critical importance of His life, His atonement, His death (see 2 Nephi 9:7-9) and that He lives today. In short, without a belief in God and without a belief in Christ and without a belief in life after death, evolution rejects all aspects of the Plan of Salvation.

Seeking Signs

Korihor taught his followers to base their beliefs on what they could see (e.g. God is an "unknown being" because he "never has been seen or known"). Here is an example of Korihor looking for signs (i.e. a personal sign):

*43 And now Korihor said unto Alma: If thou wilt show me a sign, that I may be convinced that there is a God, yea, show unto me that he hath power, and then will I be convinced of the truth of thy words.
Alma 30:43 [Korihor]*

Evolution today also asks for a sign: "show us some scientific evidence for the existence of God, and His power to create a Universe, and we will become believers."

Alma's response to Korihor is far more relevant for evolutionists today than it was for Korihor:

*44 But Alma said unto him: Thou hast had signs enough; will ye tempt your God? Will ye say, Show unto me a sign, when ye have the testimony of all these thy brethren, and also all the holy prophets? The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion, yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form do witness that there is a Supreme Creator.
Alma 30:44 [Alma the Younger]*

This quote is more relevant today because evolutionists have far more "signs" than Korihor had. For example, for every individual star Korihor could see with his eyes, modern scientists can see many trillions of stars with their telescopes (see Moses 1:35).

Furthermore, evolutionists today have very high profile "signs," such as at least a hundred billion rotating galaxies. It would be impossible for humans to build a rotating galaxy, or even travel across a galaxy or even create a single sun; but in order to avoid any mention of God; evolution considers that all galaxies formed because of an accidental explosion billions of years ago.

Science offers no verifiable scientific evidence for how an accidental explosion (i.e. the "Big Bang") could have created many quintillions of highly complex stars and many billions of rotating galaxies. An accidental "Big Bang," which Elder Nelson also referred to, has been shown to be impossible.⁹ If there was a Big Bang, it was planned and executed by God.

Also, God has given scientists the tools they need to vividly see His ability to create a Universe, but evolutionists continue to ignore these undeniable "signs" and insist on personal miracles and signs, as did Korihor. But God generally does not show personal "signs" to unbelievers in God (see D&C 63:9-12).

Adam and Eve

Korihor also spoke directly against the teachings of the prophets related to Adam and Eve:

25 Ye say that this people is a guilty and a fallen people, because of the transgression of a parent [taken in context: Adam and Eve]. Behold, I say that a child is not guilty because of its parents [taken in context: reference to the fall of Adam and Eve]. Alma 30:25 [Korihor]

Korihor rejected the teachings of the prophets that the events in the Garden of Eden, meaning the fall of Adam and Eve, were planned and were an integral part of the Plan of Salvation (see 2 Nephi 2:17-27).

Evolution ridicules the events in the Garden of Eden by claiming Adam and Eve were imaginary people. Modern day evolutionists claim that the first human beings were very primitive beings who appeared on the earth more than 100,000 years ago. But if primitive beings had our DNA, they would have had our intelligence according to evolution (which denies an intelligent spirit); so why did these primitive beings stay so primitive for so long?

LDS doctrine not only teaches that Adam was the first man on this earth; but also that Adam is the archangel, the seventh angel; the head prophet of the first dispensation; the head of all other dispensation heads; that he was the leader of the forces of Christ in the great battle against Satan in the pre-existence (Revelations 12:7-9); that he is second only to Christ in the Grand Council in the valley of Adam-Ondi-Ahman (Teachings of Presidents of the Church - Joseph Smith, 104-105); that he will be the leader of the forces of Christ in the great battle against Satan at the end of the Millennium (D&C 88:110-116); etc. etc.

To justify their totally false doctrines about Adam and Eve, scientists are willing to knowingly compromise their integrity. Radiometric dating techniques are known to be flawed because they do not take into account many events which are known to significantly alter the data being analyzed.

For example, bones are frequently subject to environmental factors (e.g. moisture) which greatly alter the radioactive content of the cells, which can significantly alter the calculated age of the bones (i.e. the year of death).

So why do scientists knowingly endorse defective dating of bones? They support false dates in order to make the bones appear to be older than the Biblical creation dates of Adam and Eve so that science can claim "scientific proof" that Adam and Eve were not real people.¹⁰

It is one thing for science to assume evolution is true in order to generate imaginary evidence for evolution; but it is morally unethical for science to endorse data which they know is false, in order to discredit the Bible!!

As with evolution's unethical behavior relative to Adam and Eve; Korihor also had a complete lack of integrity, as was mentioned by Alma in the quote at the top of this article.

The Spiritual Dangers of Korihor's Doctrines

Here is another example of the spiritual dangers of the teachings of Korihor:

*18 And thus [Korihor] 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 [Narrative - see also verse 45]*

This verse makes it clear that one of the results of the teachings of Korihor were "leading away the hearts of many, causing them to lift up their heads in their wickedness ... to commit whoredoms."

It also explains one reason why whoredoms were a result of Korihor's teachings: "telling them that when a man was dead, that was the end thereof."

Because evolution also teaches that "when a man [is] dead, that [is] the end thereof," can evolution be any less spiritually dangerous than the teachings of Korihor, knowing that they are the same doctrines? The evidence is overwhelming that the doctrines of evolution are just as spiritually damaging as the teachings of Korihor.

The Existence of a Spirit

By claiming that "when a man was dead, that was the end thereof," Korihor rejected that humans have a spirit even though the devil had appeared to him as a spirit (see verse 53 quoted below).

The theory of evolution also denies that humans, plants or animals have spirits and thus it teaches that we do not live after death. This is a key reason evolution rejects that the Savior lives today and further rejects the need for a Savior.

The LDS church clearly teaches that the intelligence of humans existed, at least in major part, when we were spirits in the preexistence (see Abraham 3:19-28); as is evidenced by the fact we needed to make very critical decisions in the preexistence (before we had physical bodies).

LDS doctrine also teaches that there is, and will continue to be, important missionary work in the spirit world, which requires intelligence on both the part of the missionaries and the listeners.

Evolution, on the other hand, ascribes all human intelligence to DNA, but it cannot explain why humans have reasoning and intelligence far more like God (i.e. our Heavenly Parents) than like animals. What animal has composed or performed a complex and beautiful piano concerto (such as were written by Grieg and Rachmaninoff) or the electronics needed to enjoy these concertos at any time?

Not only does LDS doctrine teach of a spirit world after this life, but it also teaches of a resurrection and a Judgment Day. Both of these doctrines were denied by Korihor and are denied by evolution because both deny there is life after death.

The eternal duration of life makes mortality a junction of eternal significance.

Pleasing to the Carnal Mind

Korihor was shown a sign, but it is not the sign he wanted. The sign Korihor was shown was that he was struck dumb. After he had been struck dumb, he wrote an admission that his teachings "were pleasing unto the carnal mind."

*53 But behold, the devil hath deceived me; for he appeared unto me in the form of an angel, and said unto me: Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone astray after an unknown God. And he said unto me: There is no God; yea, and he taught me that which I should say. And I have taught his words; and I taught them because they were pleasing unto the carnal mind; and I taught them, even until I had much success, insomuch that I verily believed that they were true; and for this cause I withstood the truth, even until I have brought this great curse upon me.
Alma 30:53 [Korihor]*

After receiving his sign, Korihor admitted the source of his teachings: "the devil hath deceived me ... and he taught me that which I should say." Korihor also admitted that he "withstood the truth."

The teachings of Korihor and the teachings of the theory of evolution are "pleasing unto the carnal mind" because they deny the existence of sin and they deny the existence of life after death and they deny the existence of God. Because Korihor's teachings were pleasing to the carnal mind, Korihor also admitted: "I had much success." (See also: Helaman 13:25-28)

The fact that evolution is also very "pleasing unto the carnal mind" may be a major reason the theory of evolution has also "had much success."

Philosophical naturalism is pleasing to the carnal mind is because it claims no "supernatural" (i.e. no "superhuman") intelligence exists. This means "philosophical naturalism" proclaims that scientists are the supreme beings in the Universe. This doctrine is pleasing to the ego and it is pleasing because it means humans are not subject to a supernatural intelligence or supernatural laws.

Korihor also did not feel accountable to a higher intelligence or higher laws; as is evidenced by the fact that he mocked those who believed in God.

LDS doctrine teaches that the spirits of humans are literally the children of "supernatural" beings, namely our Heavenly Parents; thus we are uniquely accountable to a higher intelligence and to higher laws. Because we are the children of God we are expected to behave like children of God.

Prophetic Responses

Alma the Younger was well aware of the implications of what Korihor taught. This is what Alma the Younger said to Korihor:

45 And yet do ye go about, leading away the hearts of this people, testifying unto them there is no God? And yet will ye deny against all these witnesses? And he said: Yea, I will deny, except ye shall show me a sign.

46 And now it came to pass that Alma said unto him: Behold, I am grieved because of the hardness of your heart, yea, that ye will still resist the spirit of the truth, that thy soul may be destroyed.

Alma 30:45-46 [Alma the Younger and Korihor]

Now we see satan's goal for Korihor and his followers: "yet will ye deny against all these witnesses ... that ye will still resist the spirit of the truth, that thy soul may be destroyed."

The good news in the story of Korihor was that the prophets were able to restore all of his followers back to the path of righteousness (see Alma 30:57-58).

However, the fate of Korihor did not have a happy ending. Korihor "was run upon and trodden down, even until he was dead" by the wicked Zoramites (Alma 30:59). The scriptures summarize the fate of Korihor:

60 And thus we see the end of him who perverteth the ways of the Lord; and thus we see that the devil will not support his children at the last day, but doth speedily drag them down to hell.

Alma 30:60 [Narrative]

Some people might claim that there is a difference between the teachings of Korihor and the teachings of evolution because there is scientific evidence for the theory of evolution. Such an attitude is based on the assumption that there is real scientific data to support the theory of evolution. No such data exists.

Exactly like the teachings of Korihor, philosophical naturalism is a false philosophy, because it is based on false religious doctrines. But evolution is additionally based on false science.

Modern Prophets

Just like there are modern anti-Christ doctrines, there are also modern living prophets to teach and warn God's people.

Elder Nelson's talk (quoted from above) was an apostolic warning about false doctrines, especially the theory of evolution. Here is another warning about false doctrines in the Latter-Days:

"The time is coming and facing you right now ... when except you have that testimony of certainty that these things [the gospel, the Church, and so on] are true you will not be able to weather the storms that are going to beat upon you and try to tear you from your moorings today. But if you know with all your soul that these things are true ... you will know who Jesus your Savior is and who God your Father is; you will know what the influence of the Holy Ghost is. If you know those things you will stand as an anchor against all the storms that shall beat upon your house ... [Matthew 7:26-27]"
Harold B. Lee (2002 Priesthood/R.S. Manual - page 44-45)

In this quote we are warned about "the storms that are going to beat upon you and try to tear you from your moorings today." The theory of evolution is one such storm. We also see the importance of a having "that testimony of certainty" so that "if you know those things you will stand as an anchor against all the storms that shall beat upon your house."¹¹

One tool the Savior has given us so we can develop "that testimony of certainty" is living prophets. Another tool is the Book of Mormon. Our prophets have repeatedly warned about the importance of each of us studying the Book of Mormon over and over again in order to maintain our testimonies:

"How long has it been since you have read the Book of Mormon? I was startled a little while ago by interviews with two men who were years ago [teaching] in our seminary system and both of whom have gone into other teaching positions, [and] have obtained their graduate degrees. They have slipped away from the gospel truths and now have been challenging and quarreling with and trying to destroy and criticize the teachings of the Church.

I have talked with both of them, and when I inquired about their reading the Book of Mormon, one of them said to me: "It has been fourteen years since I have read anything in the Book of Mormon."

Another said, "I can't remember when I last read anything from the Book of Mormon." So it will be with any of us, if we do not continue to saturate ourselves with the teachings of this most precious book which the Lord has given us for a purpose -- that is, to correct all of these errors and dissensions in our day just as He promised He would in other days."

Harold B. Lee (2002 Priesthood/R.S. Manual - page 63)

Footnotes:

- 1) The full title of Darwin's book was: On The Origin of Species By Means Of Natural Selection or the Preservation Of Favoured Races In The Struggle For Life. Darwin did not use the term "evolution" in this book; rather he used terms like "theory of natural selection," "descent with modification," and "lineal descendants."
- 2) The source of information about Louis Agassiz, including the quotes, comes from the book: The Other Eminent Men of Wilford Woodruff, by researcher Vicki Jo Anderson, and was published by Nelson Book.
- 3) This doctrine (and the official position of the church on the subject of evolution) can be found in the First Presidency article: "The Origin of Man," Improvement Era, Nov. 1909, 75–81. This article was reprinted in the February, 2002 Ensign. As another example, see the book: True to the Faith - A Gospel Reference (e.g. pages 14-20, 44-45, 56-59, etc.). The booklet True to the Faith is the antithesis of evolution. "The Origin of Man" and "True to the Faith" can be found on the "www.lds.org" website.
- 4) Prophets or Evolution - An LDS Perspective, by the author of this article, R. Webster Kehr. See the Appendix for a short list of excellent books and videos which are very critical of the theory of evolution from a scientific perspective. The Prophets or Evolution eBook is free and constitutes the author's opinions about evolution. The eBook is available on the website: www.ProphetsOrEvolution.com
- 5) *ibid*, chapter 30
- 6) *ibid*, chapter 35
- 7) See the magnificent article: "The False Gods We Worship," by President Spencer W. Kimball. This was a "First Presidency Message" in the June 1976, Ensign, p. 3 and is available online at www.lds.org.
- 8) A booklet published by the National Academy of Sciences clearly describes the official attitude of the scientific establishment towards evolution and creation science (for example, see pages 8 and 25 of the second edition): Science and Creationism - A View from the National Academy of Sciences, Second Edition, National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. 1999

9) For a discussion of why an accidental Big Bang could not have happened, see the book: Reflections of a Scientist, by world-famous chemist Dr. Henry Eyring (he is the father of President Henry B. Eyring of the First Presidency), page 77.

10) Kehr, see chapter 20 for examples of the scientific community knowingly using unethical and erroneous "science" to date bones and fossils (e.g. Kennewick Man).

11) For a conceptual description of the battle between good and evil, and why God allows such a battle, read the General Conference talk of President Boyd K. Packer: "The Mystery of Life," Ensign, Nov. 1983, page 16, which is available on the www.lds.org website.

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