

Mosiah 10 — The Tradition of the Fathers — A Wrong That Is Taught, A Hatred That Is Inherited, A Deliverance That Comes by Remembrance

Mosiah 10: Zeniff's record continues; twenty-two years of peace; King Laman dies; his son stirs up his people for war; Zeniff explains the Lamanite tradition-of-grievance — the false-narrative their fathers passed down — and shows how the same God who delivered Israel out of Egypt delivers his people in the strength of the Lord; c. 178 BC.

Mosiah 10 is *Zeniff's-second-war-and-his-anthropology-of-the-Lamanites*. After the thirteenth-year-attack of Mosiah 9, Zeniff records *twenty-two years* of relative-peace (v. 3) before the next-king-of-the-Lamanites stirs-up his-people-against the colony again. The chapter has two-distinct-parts: a *narrative-frame* (the second-war, vv. 1–11 and vv. 19–22), and an *embedded-anthropology of the Lamanite-grievance-tradition* (vv. 12–18). The embedded-portion is the BoM's first-extended-Nephite-explanation of why-the-Lamanites-hate-the-Nephites, written by-a-Nephite-king who has dwelt-among-Lamanites and reads-their-grievance-from-the-inside.

Load-Bearing Texts

1. v. 11. *they were a wild, and ferocious, and a blood-thirsty people, believing in the tradition of their fathers* — the chapter's-master-statement that the Lamanite-condition is tradition-driven, not nature-driven
2. v. 12. *they were wroth with him... because they understood not the dealings of the Lord, that he had brought them out of the land of Jerusalem* — the chapter's-master-diagnosis of grievance-as-misunderstanding-of-providence
3. v. 14. *Laman... because of the rebellions of Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael, they bring upon themselves and upon their children many afflictions* — the chapter's-master-statement of the multi-generational-iniquity inheritance
4. v. 17. *they have taught their children that they should hate them, that they should murder them, that they should rob and plunder them, and do all they could to destroy them* — the chapter's-master-articulation of the curated-curriculum-of-hatred
5. v. 20. *we did go up in the strength of the Lord to battle. Yea, in the strength of the Lord did we go forth* — the chapter's-master-repetition of Mosiah 9:17's deliverance-formula

Hebrew Word Studies

masoret / 'eivah / shana (מָסֹרֶת / עִיבָה / שָׁנָא) — tradition, handing-on / enmity, hatred / to repeat, to teach by repetition

vv. 12, 17. The chapter's tradition-grievance triad. *Masoret* — tradition, handing-on — the noun behind every Hebrew-Bible covenant-pattern of inheriting-the-fathers'-teaching; 'eivah — enmity, hatred — the noun used in Gen. 3:15's I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; shana — to repeat, to teach by repetition — the verb behind Deut. 6:7's thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children (and-thou-shalt-teach is shinanta, the intensive of shana). The doctrine: the Lamanites' 'eivah is masoret-by-shana — hatred-inherited-by-repeated-teaching; the curriculum is curated, not accidental; the same Shema-pattern that-makes-disciples-of-Christ can-be-inverted to make-haters-of-the-other. Same masoret-inverted grammar as Matt. 15:6 — thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition (paradosis = Hebrew masoret). The Restoration's D&C 93:39 — and that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth, through disobedience, from the children of men, and because of the tradition of their fathers — names-the-mechanism explicitly. The chapter is the BoM's clearest pre-Matthean articulation of the tradition-of-the-fathers-as-light-taker doctrine — what-was-meant-as-Shema can-be-inverted into-anti-Shema, and the chapter exposes-the-inversion.

From the Chapter's Architecture

The chapter is also the BoM's-foundational-text for Lamanite-missionary-work. The doctrine that Lamanite-hatred is curriculum, not nature makes-Lamanite-conversion-possible. The chapter is the BoM's-clearest pre-Ammonite anchor for Alma 17–26's the-sons-of-Mosiah-among-the-Lamanites — the sons-of-Mosiah will-go because Mosiah-10:17 has-already-established the conversion-possibility. If the hatred is taught, the love can be re-taught.