

**EDUCATION CREATES OR
DESTROYS ALL SOCIAL ORDERS:**

BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS

AND WITHIN

FAMILIES, CULTURES, & NATIONS

NEIL J FLINDERS – BYU CAMPUS EDUCATION WEEK – AUGUST 15-19, 2016

OVERVIEW OF THE FOUR HOURS

- **Tuesday**
The Revealed Role for both Education & Schooling:
Joseph Smith's and Elijah's Foundational Missions
 - **Wednesday**
How and When American Education Changed:
Rise of the Secular Society & Meeting its Challenges
 - **Thursday**
Education, Religious Freedom, and Institutional Liberty:
Apostolic Counsel Regarding the Current Legal Crises
 - **Friday**
A Millennial Movement: Education in the 21st Century
Agency-based Education, Key to Protecting Families
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FIVE PREMISES BENEATH THE TITLES

1. Due to their inherent spiritual nature, humans are social beings that require communication to sustain and enhance their personal existence.
 2. People embrace and eventually choose basic beliefs (assumptions) that drive their behaviors and aspirations.
 3. Physically, people are more alike than different; the patterns and cycles of various cultures and civilizations tend to be more similar than different.
 4. The family unit is the most basic and vital social order—father, mother, children; the well-being of this unit is governed by interpersonal communication relationships that create various lifestyles and cultures.
 5. Today, the central human issue is, as it has always been, a matter of discerning and acting upon truth or error, right or wrong, good or evil—then coping with the consequences.
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THE REVEALED ROLE FOR BOTH EDUCATION & SCHOOLING:

JOSEPH SMITH'S AND ELIJAH'S FOUNDATIONAL MISSIONS

**LOOK BACK FOR ORIENTATION
LOOK FORWARD FOR DIRECTION**

It helps to have Prophets, Seers, and Revelators

Without Revelation:

Life is Guesswork, Darkness, and Confusion

– Bible Dictionary p. 762

“I am convinced that people living today can learn more about true education by studying the life and teachings of Joseph Smith than they can by studying all the books on education they might find in any library available to them.”

– Neil J Flinders

JOSEPH SMITH'S & ELIJAH'S FOUNDATIONAL MISSIONS

- The restoration began when Moroni issued Joseph's call to the ministry when he was 18 years old. Moroni repeated his instruction four times. (JSH 1:30-49)
 - Joseph learned his assignment was linked to the Prophet Elijah's work to *reconcile families*—children to their fathers, fathers to their children—according to the divine pattern. (JSH 1:37-39; D&C 2:1-3)
 - Joseph would *learn* and then *teach* that sacred sealing ordinances were to connect families, both the living and the dead, in eternal relationships. (Moses 1:39; D&C 110:13-16)
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THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH PROCLAIMED:

“The ancient prophets declared that in the last days the God of Heaven should set up a kingdom which should never be destroyed . . . I calculate to be one of the instruments . . .

I intend to lay a foundation that will revolutionize the whole world.”

– TPJS pp. 365-366

CONNECTIONS TO EDUCATION

The **foundation** of which Joseph speaks presumes an **educational** process based on inspired revelation:

“Education is the acquisition and appropriate application of the truth—a knowledge of things as they are, as they were, and as they will be.”

– D&C 88:6-13; 93:24; *Joseph Smith: America's Greatest Educator*, p xxxii

**A DOCTRINAL PREMISE
AN EDUCATIONAL PROCLAMATION**

The Prophet Alma declared the *aim of the Priesthood ministry* was to:

“Prepare a generation of parents who will prepare the minds [and hearts] of their children to hear the word and receive the Savior at his Coming.”

– Alma 39:16; 16:15-16)

MODERN APOSTOLIC COUNSEL ON THE MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

Both *Education* and *Schooling* require:

Context
(Why)

Content
(What)

Process
(How/Methods)

Structure
(When/Where)

APOSTOLIC COUNSEL

The prophet **Joseph Smith** [1835] taught:

- Hear It
- Receive It
- Gather Together
- Sustain and Defend It

– *TPJS* pp. 86-89

APOSTOLIC COUNSEL

Elder **M. Russell Ballard** teaches:

Help our youth understand God's plan of happiness
... Help them:

- Know It
- Embrace It
- Participate in It
- Defend It

– *Church News* March 6, 2016. p. 5

RECENT, SIGNIFICANT EDUCATIONAL CHANGES

Church Leaders have recently announced and are in the process of implementing three very significant educational programs:

1. The new youth curricular emphasis *Teaching in the Savior's Way*
2. The new *Teacher Training* pattern during the 3-hour block
3. The new *CES-Global Learning Initiative* designed to teach worldwide in Church facilities (a) English and (b) Secondary Education for teacher proficiency.

Each of these programs is intended to strengthen the family as well as the individual.

APOSTOLIC COUNSEL

Elder **Neil L. Andersen** teaches:

Education is deep inside our doctrine. We are not concerned about:

- What we are going to do, but
- What we are going to become

– *Church News* January 31, 2016. p. 5

APOSTOLIC COUNSEL

Elder **M. Russell Ballard** teaches:

Many of our young people are:

- More familiar with *Google* than the *gospel*
- More attuned to the *Internet* than to *inspiration*
- More involved with *Facebook* than *faith*

Remind them James did not say:

- “If any of you lack wisdom let him [ask] Google.”

APOSTOLIC COUNSEL

Elder Ballard then *emphasizes* the importance of *context*:

“More than at anytime in our history, . . . [we] need to be blessed by learning **doctrinal or historical context** by study and faith accompanied by pure testimony so [we] can experience a mature and lasting conversion to the gospel and a life-long commitment to Jesus Christ. . . . **Church leaders today are fully conscious of the unlimited access to information and we are making extraordinary efforts to provide accurate context and understanding of the teachings of the Restoration.**”

– *Church News* March 6, 2016. pp 5, 11

APOSTOLIC COUNSEL

President **Thomas S. Monson** teaches [a description with promises]:

“May I say to all of you, and particularly to you young people, that as the world moves further and further away from the principles . . . we will stand out from the crowd because we are different. . .”

He . . . proclaims two great promises attached to our *allegiance* to Christ and Heavenly Father:

- *First*, those things which make us different from most of the world . . . provide us with that **light** and that **spirit** which will shine in an increasingly dark world.
- *Second*, as we make Christ the center of our lives, our **fears** will be **replaced** by the **courage** of our convictions.

– October 2015 General Conference

CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL CONTEXT: ANCIENT AND MODERN PROPHETIC WARNINGS

Nephi saw our day and gave us counsel

– 2 Nephi 26:14 through 30:18

Moroni saw our day and gave us counsel

– Mormon 8:34-35; Mormon chapters 8, 9

JOSEPH SMITH EXPLAINED

“In speaking of the gathering, we mean to be understood as speaking of it according to scripture, the gathering of the elect of the Lord out of every nation on earth, and bringing them to the place of the Lord of Hosts, when the city of righteousness shall be built, and where the people shall be of one heart and one mind, *when the Savior comes*; yea, where the people shall walk with God like Enoch, and be free from sin.”

– TPJS p. 93

JOSEPH SMITH'S PROPHECY REGARDING THIS DISPENSATION:

“The servants of God will not have gone over the nations of the Gentiles, with a warning voice, until the destroying angel will commence to waste the inhabitants of the earth, and as the prophet [Isaiah] has said, ‘It shall be a vexation to hear the report.’”

– Isaiah 28:18-21

THE PROPHET CONTINUES:

“I speak thus, because I feel for my fellow men; I do it in the name of the Lord, being moved upon by the Holy Spirit.”

“Oh, that I could snatch them from the vortex of misery, into which I behold them plunging themselves, by their sins; that I might be enabled by the warning voice, to be an instrument of bringing them to unfeigned repentance, that they might have faith to stand in the evil day.”

– *TPJS* p. 87. [1835]

THE PROPHET MORONI'S PROPHECY

Moroni's description and warning to those who live today, as stated in the chapter heading: "The Nephite Record shall come forth in a day of wickedness, degeneracy, and apostasy." (Mormon 8:34-35)

Moroni repeated his exhortation to the latter-days when he summarized the Jaredite record on the 24 plates found by Limhi and his people. (Ether 1:1-2)

Moroni also warned:

"[T]his land, . . . is a land of promise; and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God, or they shall be swept off . . . when they are ripened in iniquity. . . . 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 2:9-12)

THE PROPHET MORONI'S PROPHECY

One might conclude that

“We are where we are as a nation; because of what the people have become as a people.”

– NJF

PERHAPS ZIGGY FRAMED THE DILEMMA



RECOGNIZING FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION WITHIN THE RESTORED GOSPEL

Consider two major points:

1. What we think with, when we think about something, makes all the difference
 2. We should make the *doctrines* and *commandments* our assumptions as we seek to learn and teach (see D&C 88:73-80)
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A REMARKABLE FOUNDATION

The *Foundation* which Joseph laid was remarkable in three very important ways (often ignored in our day):

“**First**, Joseph Smith articulated a *pattern of religious order and beliefs, principles and ordinances*, against which all other ***religious orders***, beliefs, principles, and ordinances can be evaluated.

“**Second**, he proclaimed and implemented the *foundations for a living process of education* that defines and sustains the temporal and eternal nature of the religion he was commissioned to *restore*.

“**Third**, These *educational* foundations are likewise a means by which all other ***educational*** organizations, beliefs, principles, and philosophies can be evaluated.”

– *Joseph Smith: America's Greatest Educator*, p. 3

CONSIDER THIS SUMMARY

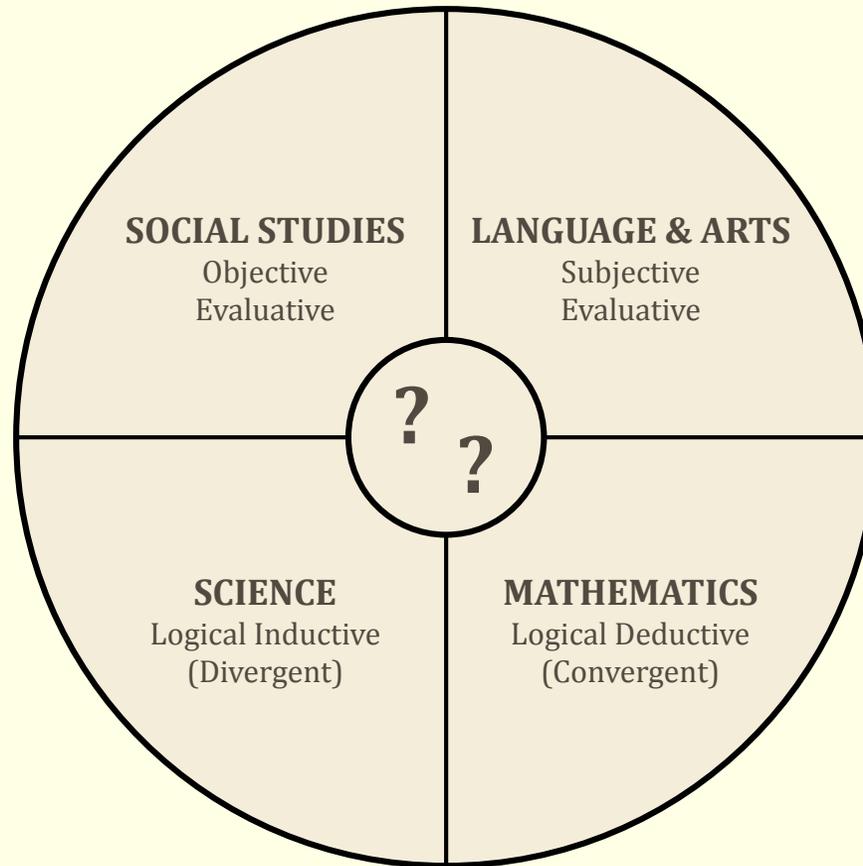
- Adam and Eve were commanded to teach their children literacy in order to:
 - Cultivate **gratitude** and
 - For **genealogical** reasons
 - This was a core purpose of education
 - The practical values, in a temporal sense, built on this foundation
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MOSES SAW THEIR DAY HE REPORTED

“And a *book of remembrance* was kept, in the which was recorded [matters pertaining to] the spirit of inspiration; and by them Adam and Eve’s children were taught to read and write, . . . and a genealogy was kept of the children of God. And this was the *book of the generations of Adam*: ‘In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him. In the image of his own body, male and female created he them . . .’”

– Moses 6:5-9

MODERN CURRICULUM WHEEL



RECORDS ON EARTH AND RECORDS IN HEAVEN

Our scriptures (standard works) are essentially stories of a few families and their education.

Adam's Family Before the Flood	Genesis 1-11; Book of Moses
Jared's Family After the Flood	Book of Ether
Abraham's Family After the Flood	Old Testament; Book of Abraham
Lehi's Family After the Flood	Book of Mormon
Jehovah's (Spiritual) Family	New Testament; Mosiah 5-7, 3 and 4 Nephi; Doctrine and Covenants
Restoration/Millennial Reign	Doctrine and Covenants

OUR SCRIPTURES FOLLOW A GENEALOGICAL PATTERN

Example from the Old Testament:

- Genesis 1-12 Genealogical Patriarchal Pedigree Chart Stuff
 - Genesis 13-50 Family Group Sheet Stuff
 - Exodus to Malachi Family History Stuff
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MODERN APOSTOLIC COUNSEL ON THE MISSION OF THE MINISTRY

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CONTEXT, CONTENT, STRUCTURE, PROCESS



CONTEXTS FOR MODERN EDUCATION

- University



- Secondary



- Elementary



CONTEXT: A KEY TO EDUCATION

Elder Ballard *emphasizes* the importance of *context*:

“More than at anytime in our history, . . . [we] need to be blessed by learning **doctrinal or historical context** by study and faith accompanied by pure testimony so [we] can experience a mature and lasting conversion to the gospel and a life-long commitment to Jesus Christ. . . . Church leaders today are fully conscious of the unlimited access to information and we are making extraordinary efforts to provide accurate **context** and understanding of the teachings of the Restoration.”

– *Church News* March 6, 2016. pp 5, 11

DIVINE REVELATION VS. REJECTION AND SUBSTITUTION

- Revealed doctrine, principles, practices (not after the manner of the world)
 - The “mingling” of philosophy, logic, rhetoric with revelation (useful but limited substitutes)
 - A modern “solution” of hypotheses, experiments, and scientific theory (ignores the spiritual)
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SCHOOLING CONTEXTS: A SCRIPTURAL STORY OF TWO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Alma's Night School	Amulon's Day Schools
<p>“Holy Order of the Son of God” is Priesthood power of God restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. (D&C 13; 27:12; 110:1-15; 128)</p>	<p>“Order of Nehor” (90 B.C.) (Alma 21:4; 24:28-30) Korihor Doctrine (74 B.C.) (Alma chapter 30)</p>
True religious doctrines and prophecies come from God to mankind through divine revelation.	Religious doctrines and prophecies are foolish and superstitious traditions created by our unenlightened ancestors. (Alma 30:13-14)
Humankind can learn and know by the Spirit as well as by rational and physical senses.	You cannot know what you cannot see. You cannot know that God exists. (Alma 30:15)
True religious convictions are the result of revelation to humble and obedient people.	Religious convictions are the result of a frenzied and deranged mind. (Alma 30:16, 26)
God does intervene in our lives; we cannot survive without his intervention.	God does not intervene in our behalf, we survive in life by our own efforts. There is no punishment for sin. (Alma 30:17)
Transgression of God's law is sin and transgression of Civil law is crime.	There is no such thing as sin or crime. (Alma 30:17-18)
The true Church has the authority to administer the ordinances that free humans from bondage, slavery, and oppression.	Churches and religions place people in bondage, slavery, and oppression chaining them to ideas and authorities. (Alma 30:27)

WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURSUE EDUCATION PERSONALLY AND IN OUR HOMES

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is charting the course now:

- Ordinances and Sunday Worship
 - Weekday Religious Education
 - The Family Proclamation
 - The 'New' Youth Curriculum
 - Teacher Training During the 3-Hour Block
 - The Global Initiative Now Underway
 - Other Civil Schooling Opportunities
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FREE DIGITALLY AVAILABLE RESOURCE DOCUMENTS

NEIL J FLINDERS

1. dynamicagency.blogspot.com [Check the index to access the files]
 - Slides used in my presentations during this BYU Education week – August 2016
 - Music and lyrics to the song “**Teach My Child**”
 - Verses to: “**This Generation: The 21st Century**”
2. http://www.jrcls.org/?folder=religious_freedom&page=voice
 - “Defending Religious Freedom in a Secular Society”
 - Article was prepared at the invitation of the BYU Law School
3. <http://www.josephsmithforum.org/research/papers/traditions-of-scholarship>
 - “Traditions of Scholarship that Shape the Foundations of Education and the Nature of the University”
4. https://video.byui.edu/media/Kim+B.+Clark+%E2%80%9CCESA+The+Lord%E2%80%99s+Educational+System+for+His+Church%E2%80%9D/0_xl0zwja3/21751142
 - Elder Kim Clark’s address introducing the *CES-Global Learning Initiative*
 - Search on Google for “Kim Clark CES initiative” and look for video.byui.edu link
5. <https://ojs.lib.byu.edu/spc/index.php/BYUStudies/article/download/4401/4051>
 - President Alvin R. Dyer “*Education: Moving Toward and Under the Law of Consecration*”