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The 5th Gospel

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Abstract: Shows more than 25 agreements between 3 Nephi and the Gospels of the New Testament. Gives reasons that 3 Nephi should be referred to as the “fifth gospel.”

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John... The 5th Gospel

In a short study of the chart on page 172, it will be readily apparent that the more than 25 points of agreement between 3 Nephi in the Book of Mormon and the New Testament Gospels show that this "Fifth Gospel" has many of the characteristics of those in the New Testament. It should be remembered that the greater number of parallel details given by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are details about the last week of the Savior's mortal life. Also each of the New Testament Gospels is distinct, and no one of them contains all the information recorded in the Gospels. The major features of the New Testament Gospels, other than Jesus' death and resurrection, include the following:

1. *A record of Jesus' discourses, miracles, and teachings*
2. *Emphasis on righteousness, prayer, testimony*
3. *A studied interpretation of Old Testament prophecies, showing that Jesus' life and ministry fulfilled many of them*
4. *Other names applied to Jesus Christ: Messiah, Son of Man, Savior, Son of David.*

By these criteria 3 Nephi qualifies as a Gospel along with the New Testament Gospels. Further, 3 Nephi gives more details which preserve the doctrines, teachings, and compassion of the Lord. Following are some distinctive examples:

1. The apostasy and persecutions which follow the prophetic ministry of Samuel the Lamanite are recorded. There seems no New Testament parallel to the Gadianton robbers. (3 Nephi 1:27 to 4:33.)

2. Jesus Christ, also named as the Creator, as the One who, as Jehovah, gave the law to Moses, declared the law was fulfilled and that blood sacrifice and burnt offerings were to be replaced with the sacrifice of a broken heart and contrite spirit. The Lord declared that the prophecies of his coming were fulfilled. In the New Testament, Matthew interprets Jesus' life and ministry as fulfilling prophecy; 3 Nephi becomes another witness for Christ in declaring this to be so. Thus, in the Book of Mormon we may glimpse the inspiration which prompt-

(For Course 9, lesson of June 16, "A Man Must Be Called of God"; for Course 17, lessons of June 19 and 26, "Nephi" and "Samuel the Lamanite"; for Course 29, lessons of April 21 and May 19, "The Book of Mormon"; and of general interest.)

ed Matthew's examination of the Old Testament. (3 Nephi 9:16-20; 15:3-8.)

3. The Lord explicitly gave the Twelve authority to baptize, with instructions on carrying out the ordinance. (3 Nephi 11:22-28; 12:1.)

4. The Savior explained that both the Father and the Holy Ghost would testify or bear record of him. (3 Nephi 11:31-36.)

5. 3 Nephi records both the promise and its fulfillment that those humble of heart who are baptized should also receive the Holy Ghost. (3 Nephi 12:2; 19:11-13, 20.) John the Baptist taught or promised that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost; the record of this fulfillment is not preserved in the New Testament Gospels but comes later after the ascension of Jesus in the book of Acts.

6. The power to confer the Holy Ghost is explicitly given to the Twelve in 3 Nephi. In the New Testament it is only implied. (3 Nephi 18:36, 37; Luke 24:49; Acts 2:38.)

7. The sermon of the Savior which in the New Testament is called the Sermon on the Mount, is more explicit than Matthew's version. (3 Nephi 12:2, 6, 14, 29, 48; Matthew 5:6, 14, 48.)

8. A dominant feature of 3 Nephi is that Jesus turns occasionally from the multitude to teach the Twelve. (3 Nephi 13:25; 15:11; 18:10, 26.) The authority and leadership of the Twelve is more explicit than in the New Testament.

9. 3 Nephi carries an extensive prophecy on the gathering of Israel, in which the Lord explains that the gospel shall go to the Gentiles, and that if the Gentiles reject it, the remnant of Israel shall accept it and become strong. (3 Nephi 20-22.) In the New Testament Gospels, Jesus approached this subject only in parables. (John 10:6; Joseph Smith's comment on the Parable of the Mustard Seed, *Documentary History of the Church* 2:268; Matt. 24:31.)

10. In 3 Nephi the Lord gave instructions to record the prophecy of Samuel the Lamanite, which had been omitted from the Nephite scripture. (3 Nephi 23:4-14.) This emphasis the Lord placed upon an accurate record is without parallel in the New Testament.

The book which we call 3 Nephi, or the Fifth Gospel, has many parallels and also distinctive additions to the New Testament. It has a deep spiritual ring that touches the heart and clear, vivid details that give satisfaction in understanding. Indeed, the Fifth Gospel has a "... voice ... as of one that hath a familiar spirit." (Isaiah 29:4.)

—Robert C. Patch.*

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Matthew, Mark, Luke, John... The 5th Gospel

Parallels of Discussion between 3 Nephi and the New Testament Gospels

Chapt.	TOPIC OF DISCUSSION	3 NEPHI	NEW TESTAMENT PARALLEL	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
1	Samuel's prophecy	1:5-8	Ministry of John the Baptist [see Isaiah 40:3-8]*	3:1-17	1:1-11	3:1-22	1:6-36; 3:23-36
	Revelation to Nephi	1:12-14	Revelation to Mary	[1:22, 23]		1:26-38	
	Signs fulfilled					2:8-20	
	Night as day	1:19					
	New star	1:21	The Star seen in the East	2:2, 7, 9, 10			
5	Mormon's testimony of the truthfulness of his record	5:8-26	Certification of John's gospel				21:24
7	Nephi an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry	7:15-22	Implications of New Testament eyewitnesses [Acts 1: 21, 22]	27:52, 53			19:35 20:7-9 21:25
	Men ordained to baptize	7:24, 25		28:19			1:24-28, 33 4:2
8	Signs of the crucifixion	8:5-25					
	Storm	8:5-7					
	Earthquake, destruction	8:8-19	[Mark 15:38 Veil of the Temple rent in two]	27:51, 54; 28:2			
	Darkness	8:19-23		27:45	15:33	23:44	
9	The Voice of the Lord proclaims: Christ the Creator	9:15					1:3
	Scriptures concerning the Lord's coming are fulfilled	9:16	(This is a major theme in Matthew)	1:22, 23; 2:15, 17, 23; 4:14; 8:16; 12:17-21; 21:2-5; 24:15; 27:9, 35	14:27, 49 9:12; 15:28	4:21; 24:27, 44-48	17:12; 1:45; 12:37-41; 20:9; 13:18; 15:24; 18:9; 19:24, 36
	By Christ comes redemption	9:17, 21				2:38	
	Christ fulfills the Law of Moses	9:17-19 [12:19; 15:2-10]		5:17		16:16	
	Humble and contrite baptized with fire and Holy Ghost	9:20-22	Preaching of John the Baptist	3:11	1:8	3:16	[20:22]

The First Day of Teaching		11:1 to 18:39
11	The Father's voice from heaven	11:3-7
	Multitude did feel the prints . . . witness . . . worship	11:15
12 to 14	The Sermon of the Savior	12:1 to 15:1
15	Other sheep	15:11 to 16:3
17	Heals sick	17:7-10
	Blesses children, angels minister	17:12-25
18	Institutes sacrament	18:1-7, 26-35
	Gives Twelve power to confer Holy Ghost	18:36-39
	Jesus ascends in a cloud	18:38, 39
The Second Day of Teaching		19:15 to 26:5
19	Jesus' advocacy prayer	19:15-25
20	Savior provides bread and wine for sacrament	20:1-9
	Moses had prophesied of Jesus Christ	20:23, 24
26	The Lord expounds all things from the beginning to the end	26:1-5
The Third Day of Teaching		26:13
27	Subsequent instructions to the Twelve	26:13 27
	The Lord appears to the Twelve	27:2
	None is lost	27:30-32
28	Nine of the Twelve to come to the Lord's kingdom after age 72	28:1-3
	Three of the Twelve, like John, will not die	28:4-11

* [] indicates relevant ideas.

The Savior's baptism and the transfiguration	3:17 17:5	9:7	9:35	[12:8]
Thomas				20:19, 20, 24-29
Sermon on the Mount	5:3 to 7:29		6:20-49	
The Good Shepherd				10:1-18
	8:16; 14:14	3:10	4:40	4:47
Suffer little children to come unto me	19:13-15	10:13-16		
	26:26-29	14:22-25	22:19, 20	
				[20:21-23]
Acts 1:9		16:19	24:51	20:17
				17:1-26
Miracles of water to wine and feeding the four thousand	[15:32-38]			[2:7-11]
[Deuteronomy 18:15-19; Acts 3:20-24]			24:27	5:46
			[24:27, 44, 45]	
	28:16, 17	16:14	24:36	20:19, 26
				17:12
Apostles appointed a kingdom			22:28-30	
[Doctrine and Covenants 7]			[9:27]	21:20-23

—Compiled by Robert C. Patch.