

Book of Mormon Plagiarism

King Benjamin's Address

Is patterend after a

1800's Methodist Revival Pattern

(courtesy Grant Palmer)

In the early 1800's the Methodist preachers followed a conversion pattern during revivals. Preachers such as George Lane, Lorenzo Dow, Eleazer Sherman wrote about this pattern. It is:

1. Revival Gathering
2. Guilt-ridden Falling-down on the ground exercise
3. Petition for Spiritual Emancipation
4. Absolution and Emotional Ecstasy

King Benjamin's address:

1. People of Zarahemla gather at the temple site (dedicated land) in tents. Mosiah 2:1
2. When King Benjamin had made an end to speaking, he cast his eyes on the multitude and behold they had fallen to the earth...and had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. Mosiah 4:1-2
3. And they all cried aloud with one voice saying: O have mercy and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified... Mosiah 4:2
4. After they had spoke these words the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins... Mosiah 4:3

Be aware that early Methodists held tent gatherings:

Methodists in Joseph Smith's time would occasionally hold tent-camp meetings. One such event happened one mile from Palmyra, NY on June 7, 1826. Preparations included leasing and consecrating the ground, which was then considered sacred and chapel-like. This ground was called the "house of God," or their "temple." This particular tent meeting attracted over 10,000 people. Families came from all parts of the 100 mile district and pitched their tents facing the raised "stand" where the preachers were seated. One of them, interesting enough, was named Benjamin G. Paddock. The main preacher who spoke was Bishop M'Kendree, who was retiring. This was his final public speech and he spoke about personal salvation. The talk was well received and there was reported to be tremendous unity in the crowd and "nearly every unconverted person present" committed themselves to Christ.