

Teachings of Korihor

Key Scripture Alma 30

Explanation Korihor, an antichrist preaching at the time when Alma the Younger was high priest over the land, convinced many Nephites that they should not believe in Jesus Christ or his coming atonement. He taught them instead various philosophies. In Korihor's phrases and arguments, modern readers can find parallels to many schools of thought, such as atheism, nihilism, and relativism, which have long dominated much of secular philosophy. This highly intelligent opponent's tactics were persuasive, but Alma retaliated with pure testimony and the power of God, eliminating Korihor's influence in the land. This chart lists each of the doctrines taught by Korihor in Alma 30 and a modern or standard philosophical counterpart.

Source Based on the research and assistance of Miriam Horwinski, teaching assistant of John W. Welch, Book of Mormon 121H, Brigham Young University, fall 1997.

The Teachings of Korihor in Alma 30

Modern Counterpart	Korihorism	Verse
Anti-Christian	"there should be no Christ"	12
Negativism	"bound down under a foolish and vain hope"	13
Agnosticism	"no man can know of anything which is to come"	13
Empiricism	"ye cannot know of things which ye do not see"	15
Psychological explanation	"it is the effect of a frenzied mind"	16
Positivism	"a belief of things which are not so"	16
Sophism	"every man fares in this life according to the management of the creature"	17
Naturalism	"every man prospers according to his genius"	17
Egoism	"every man conquers according to his strength"	17
Relativism	"whatsoever a man does is no crime"	17
Hedonism	"lift up their heads in wickedness"	18
Nihilism	"when a man dies, that is the end thereof"	18
Anti-Religion	"priests usurp power and authority over people"	23
Skepticism	"ye do not know that they are true"	24
Atheism	"a being who never has been seen or known, who never was nor ever will be"	28