

King Benjamin's Coronation of Mosiah

Key Scriptures Mosiah 1–5; 1 Kings 1:34, 39; 2 Kings 11:12, 14, 17; 23:3; 2 Chronicles 6:13

Explanation The coronation of Mosiah by King Benjamin was a grand ceremonial event that parallels the installation of kings in ancient Israel and other Near Eastern countries of antiquity, suggesting that the Nephites continued to practice Old World traditions in the Americas. Coronations were important ritual acts in the ancient Near East, including, among other things, anointing the new king, installing him in office with insignia, and presenting him to the people—elements that Benjamin's ceremony also contained. Old Testament parallels to Mosiah's coronation can be found in 1 Kings 1:34, 39; 2 Kings 11:12, 14, 17; 23:3; and 2 Chronicles 6:13.

Source Stephen D. Ricks, "Kingship, Coronation, and Covenant in Mosiah 1–6," in *King Benjamin's Speech: "That Ye May Learn Wisdom,"* ed. John W. Welch and Stephen D. Ricks (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1998), 233–75.

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Israelite Pattern

Book of Mormon Parallel or Adaptation

The Sanctuary
Was the Site of
the Coronation

All the people gathered at the temple at Zarahemla, the site chosen for Benjamin's address to the people and for the consecration of his son Mosiah as king (Mosiah 1:18)

Mosiah was then presented to the people in the public gathering at the temple (Mosiah 2:30)

The King Stood
on a Royal Dais,
Platform

Benjamin constructed a tower from which he spoke to the people gathered (situated in tents) at the temple (Mosiah 2:7)

Installing in
Office with
Insignia

Benjamin gave Mosiah the official records of the people (the plates of brass and the plates of Nephi), the sword of Laban, and the miraculous Liahona (Mosiah 1:15–16)

King Mosiah was known to possess "two stones" (Mosiah 28:13)

Anointing

Benjamin consecrated his son Mosiah to be a ruler and a king over his people (Mosiah 6:3)

Presentation of
the New King

Mosiah is presented to the people as their king (Mosiah 2:30)

The people responded by accepting the king's declarations (Mosiah 4:2; 5:2–4)

Receiving a
Throne Name

A royal name was given to the rulers over the Nephites (Jacob 1:10–11)

Benjamin revealed to all his people a new name at this coronation (Mosiah 3:8)

Divine Adoption
of the King

By covenant, all the people became God's sons and daughters on his right hand (Mosiah 5:6–12)