

Benjamin and the Law of the King

Key Scripture Mosiah 1–5

Explanation Deuteronomy 17:15–20 presents the requirements to be king under the law of Moses. According to this “paragraph of the king,” a righteous king must read and keep the law and fear the Lord, and he should not be lifted up above his brethren or seek for riches. King Benjamin addressed each of these themes in his great speech, explaining how he had been faithful to his people and the Lord in keeping these commandments. These parallels are especially strong in Mosiah 2:12–14, which suggests that Benjamin had read and followed the scriptures on the brass plates, of which Deuteronomy was a part. This shows that Benjamin’s concept of kingship was completely at home in ancient Israel and in accordance with God’s regulations.

Source John W. Welch, “Benjamin, the Man: His Place in Nephite History,” in *King Benjamin’s Speech: “That Ye May Learn Wisdom,”* ed. John W. Welch and Stephen D. Ricks (Provo, Utah: FARMS, 1998), 34.

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	Deut.	Mosiah
The Lord shall choose him	17:15	1:10; 2:30
He shall be one of thy brethren	17:15	2:11
He shall not return the people to Egypt	17:16	3:14
He shall not multiply to himself silver and gold	17:17	2:12
He shall have a copy of the Law	17:18	1:3
He shall read the Law all his days	17:19	1:7
He shall fear the Lord	17:19	2:37–40
He shall keep all the Law	17:19	1:5; 5:5
His heart shall not be lifted up above his brethren	17:20	2:26
He shall turn not aside to the right hand or left	17:20	5:8–10
His days shall be prolonged in the kingdom	17:20	2:31