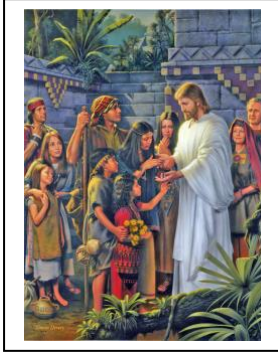


Baptism and the Sacrament

"And the Lord said unto [Nephi]: I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people when I am again ascended into heaven. On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you. Verily I say unto you, that whoso repenteth of his sins through your words, and desireth to be baptized in my name, on this wise shall ye baptize..." (3.Nephi 11:21-23) 34 AD Western Hemisphere



<< Jesus Christ visiting and teaching the Nephites

The above scripture is very clear that when the resurrected Savior Jesus Christ came to the Book of Mormon people they were taught the importance of baptism. In fact, it was one of the very first things that the Savior taught to these people. He gave to twelve men the power and authority to baptize. These Nephite Apostles baptized thousands of people. The Savior, his Apostles and the people of course esteemed baptism as a very important ordinance.



Baptism is a Christian doctrine that was taught by John the Baptist, Jesus Christ and his Twelve Apostles in Jerusalem.

<< Spanish conquistadors and their native Tlaxcalan allies entering the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan

In the early 1500s, when the first Spanish Conquistadors, explorers and representatives of the Catholic Church came into the Aztec, Maya, and Inca civilizations of the New World. They found, as to be expected, pagan beliefs and the worshiping of false gods. One of their goals was to bring to them Christianity.

But to their surprise, these Western Hemisphere pre-Columbus people already had knowledge of events as recorded in the Old Testament part of the Bible. They also had some of the teachings of Jesus Christ as taught by him on the Sermon on the Mount in Jerusalem. Including the teaching about Baptism. In fact, when the early Spanish conquistadors, explorers and representatives of the Catholic Church came to Mesoamerica the native Mayas were already baptizing their children.

Baptism is a Christian doctrine, taught by the Savior, Jesus Christ. Someone had previously taught these people in the Western Hemisphere about the importance of baptism.

Who was it?

Why were they already baptizing their children?

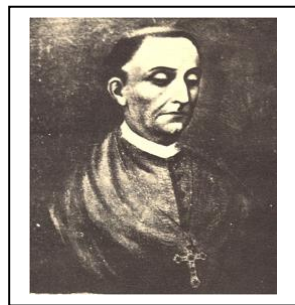
The answer is plain and simple.

The resurrected Savior himself taught the Maya's early ancestors, the Nephites, about baptism. But these Book of Mormon people within 400 years, fell away from the pure teaching and correct understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and had "departed from the ways of the Lord!" ([Mormon 6:17](#)) 380-384 AD

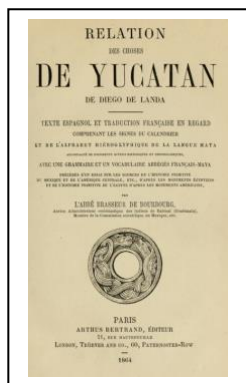
"They were once a delightful people, and they had Christ for their shepherd; yea, they were led even by God the Father." ([Mormon 5:17](#)) 380-384 AD

"O ye fair ones, how could ye have departed from the ways of the Lord! O ye fair ones, how could ye have rejected that Jesus, who stood with open arms to receive you!" ([Mormon 6:17](#)) 380-384 AD

Even though they had fallen away, their posterity still retained the understanding of the importance of Baptism.



<< Diego de Landa, in 1572 AD, was the first Catholic Bishop in the Yucatán. The Catholic Bishop Diego de Landa stated the following: "Among the Maya we found a large number [thousands] of books and we burned them all." After Diego de Landa had destroyed these ancient books, he decided that someone should record information concerning the Maya people. Therefore, he decided to write the book called *Relacion of Landa* (*Landa's Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan*). The first edition of *Relacion of Landa* was published in French in 1864 and in English in 1937.



<< In his book, Diego de Landa recorded the following:

"Baptism... exists under a name, which means 'to be born anew or again'... for in the language of Yucatan, 'sihil' means, 'to be born anew or again.' We have not been able to find its origin, more than that it is a custom that has always existed, and for which they had so much devotion that no one failed to receive it; and so much reverence for the rite that those who had sins, if they were capable of knowing they had committed them were obliged to make a special confession of them to the priest, in order to receive baptism, and they had such great faith in it that they never repeated it in any way. The high priest... took water... and touched with it the forehead and eyes and face [and hands

and feet] saying three times 'AH ah ah' which seems to signify and mean 'live again, or remember'..."

"... if anyone died without baptism they believed that he would have to suffer more torments in hell than a baptized person." "They... [felt that by being baptized] they received a preliminary disposition towards being good... and by this means and by a well-ordered life to attain glory..." (*Landa's Relacion de las Cosas de Yucatan- Landa's Relacion*, p.102).

Note: "... except a man be born again... except a man be born of water... he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." ([John 3:3-5](#))



<< Friar Bernardino de Sahagún

"Sahagún writes [that when the] bishop of Chiapas arrived at Campeche, Mexico, [in the Yucatán Peninsula] in the year 1554,... he not only saw what Montejo had [previously] written about the baptism of the Yucatecs but also learned that all the natives of that country were baptized, no one being allowed to marry before that sacred ceremonies had been performed on him... they believed that by this ablution [cleansing] they received a pure nature, were protected against evil spirits..." "Baptism... would cleanse the soul from sin..." (De Roo, *History of American before Columbus* pp. 466-467)

The following information is from the 2015 Catholic Online Encyclopedia.

"The Mayas... [in 1519 AD performed] a rite suggestive of baptism..."

"The Mayas, [at the time of the invasion in 1519] preserved [or had a knowledge and performed] a rite suggestive of baptism..." (*The Catholic Online Encyclopedia*, Volume X, Online Edition Copyright © 1999 by Kevin Knight, Nihil Obstat, October 1, 1911. Remy Lafort, S.T.D., Censor, Imprimatur. +John Cardinal Farley, Archbishop of New York)

The Savior in the year 34 AD introduced the Sacrament to the Nephite and Lamine people in the Americas.

And it came to pass that **Jesus** commanded his disciples that they should bring forth some **bread and wine** unto him." "And this shall ye always observe to do..." "And he said unto them: He that eateth this bread **eateth of my body...** and he that drinketh of this wine **drinketh of my blood...**" ([3 Nephi 18:1-7](#), & [3 Nephi 20:8](#))
34 AD

A falling away remnant of the Saviors teachings on the Sacrament still remained amongst the Aztec and Maya People.



<< **1519 AD** Montezuma emissaries as they greet Hernando Cortes and gave Cortes, [a fallen away representation of the Sacrament] as follows:
"Those envoys went and reached the place where the Spaniards were. They offered them tortillas sprinkled with human blood: when the Spaniards saw that food, it made them very nauseous. They began to spit and detest it, because the bread reeked of blood. This was done by order of Moteuccoma, [Moctezuma]... 'they all ate the white bread, without blood....'" (Bernardino de Sahagun, 1500-1590 AD, compiled the Florentine Codex, Nahuatl [Aztec] accounts of the *Conquest of Mexico* info. p. 8)

"The Aztec priests were seen to prepare a cake of **flour mixed with blood** which they consecrated and gave to the people '**declaring it was the flesh of Deity**'. (Prescott, *Conquest of Mexico*, Vol. 2 Appendix part 1 p. 389).

"...amongst the Mexicans [Aztecs] the rite of Teoqualo, or eating God... practiced by the Mexicans previously to their receiving the body of Vitzilopuchtli, appears to have been in **commemoration of the crucifixion of Quecalcoatle**. That the Mexican ceremony of Teoqualo was of two kinds, and was solemnized by **drinking the blood**, as well as by **eating the flesh of Quecalcoatle...**" (Lord Edward Kingsborough, *Antiquities of Mexico*, Vol. 8, p. 47)

Researched & Compiled by Phil Michel
For Additional Archaeological & Historical Evidence of the Book of Mormon and Jesus Christ's visit to the Western Hemisphere
visit: www.supportingevidences.net Update (12/8/19)