

# SYNOPSIS FOR CONSTRUCTING A DEDUCTIVE PROOF:

- 1) You need to understand the definition of a conditional statement. A conditional statement is a compound statement (two statements) which are joined by the words "if" and "then".  
The "if" statement is called the hypothesis; the "then" statement is called the conclusion.  
(Example: If a man is a prophet of the Lord, then he is the Lord's mouthpiece on the earth! "A man is a prophet of the Lord" is the hypothesis; "he is the Lord's mouthpiece on the earth" is the conclusion.)
- 2) A proof is a series of conditional statements which begins with a hypothesis, and through a series of statements which have valid reasons, allows one to reach a desired conclusion.
- 3) Every statement made in a two-column deductive proof must have a valid "reason" in order for the proof to be valid. The reasons used in geometric proofs are previously proved theorems, postulates, properties or definitions. The reasons used in the proof below are the words of four prophets, Lehi, Nephi, Ether, Joseph Smith, and also Jesus Christ. We can be assured that the words of prophets and the words of the Savior most certainly qualify as valid reasons for this proof.
- 4) The Law of Detachment is the logic used in every step of a proof. If you have a reason in conditional form which is true and you know the hypothesis is true, then the conclusion has to be true.  
If "p", then "q" is *true*, and "p" is *true*, then "q" is *true*.  
(Example: If a man is a prophet of the Lord, then he is the Lord's mouthpiece on the earth. President Russell M. Nelson is a prophet of the Lord. Therefore, President Russell M. Nelson is the Lord's mouthpiece on the earth.)
- 5) The Law of Syllogism states: **If "p", then "q" is *true*; and if "q", then "r" is *true*; and if "r", then "s" is *true*; and if "s", then "v" is *true*; and if "v", then "w" is *true*; (etc) then if "p", then "w" is also *true*.**  
In other words, you begin with a hypothesis and reach a conclusion. Then the conclusion of the first statement becomes the hypothesis of the next statement, and so forth, until you get to the end of your proof. You are left with a conditional which has been proved true by the Law of Syllogism! In other words, the hypothesis of the proven statement is the hypothesis of the first conditional and the conclusion of the proven statement is the conclusion of your last conditional. (I color-coded below for ease in understanding.)

I wish to prove the following statement is true: **If a land is the Nephite and Jaredite promised land, then that land is in the Heartland of America.** I will begin with the hypothesis "**If a land is the Nephite and Jaredite promised land**". Next, using the Law of Syllogism, I will go through a series of conditional statements which have valid reasons i.e. statements from prophets of the Lord! Finally, I will reach the desired conclusion "**that land is in the Heartland of America.**"

(The proof below is not in two-column form. Instead, I put the reasons under the statements. Please take time to read the reasons in the proof. Remember! Proofs are not valid without valid reasons!)

**IF A LAND IS THE NEPHITE AND JAREDITE PROMISED LAND, (p)**  
**then that land is "the land choice above all other lands". (q)**  
(Lehi in 2 Nephi 1: 5; Nephi in 1 Nephi 13: 30, Jesus Christ in 1 Nephi 2: 20; Ether 2: 7)

**and**

**If a land is "the land choice above all other lands", (q)**  
**then that land is Joseph's promised land where remnants of his seed (Ephraim and Manasseh) will dwell. (r)**  
(Ether in Ether 13: 2,6)

**and**

**If a land is Joseph's promised land where remnants of his seed (Ephraim and Manasseh) will dwell, (r)**  
**then that land is the New Jerusalem. (s)**  
(Jesus Christ in 3 Nephi 20: 14, 21, 22; Ether in Ether 13: 3, 4, 6, 8)

**and**

**If a land is the New Jerusalem, (s)**  
**then that land is in Independence, Jackson County, Missouri. (v)**  
(Joseph Smith in D&C 84: 1-4)

**and**

**If a land is Independence, Jackson County, Missouri, (v)**  
**THEN THAT LAND IS IN THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA. (w)**  
(a known geographical fact)

**THEREFORE, WE HAVE JUST PROVED**

**IF A LAND IS THE NEPHITE AND JAREDITE PROMISED LAND, (p)**  
**THEN THAT LAND IS IN THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA. (w)**

As a 20 year old Baptist, the Lord placed a question in my mind---"Why America?" The Lord has been graciously answering me line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little, and there a little for all of these many years! Today, because literally hundreds of pieces of astounding Heartland data have been inserted into the amazing and beautiful red-letter Book of Mormon narrative, the precepts and answers that have come, and are still coming, are now encapsulated in the truly amazing and inspiring Annotated Edition of the Book of Mormon!

Now I know "Why America?" and my joy is full to over-flowing!

In the sacred name of Jesus Christ. Amen

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