

***A Plain English Reference to
The Book of Mosiah
King Benjamin teaches sons
See Mosiah, Chapter 1***

This peace among all the people in the land of Zarahemla lasted for the rest of King Benjamin's days. He had three sons, Mosiah, Helorum and Helaman, and taught them the writing language of their forefathers — modified Egyptian.

He did this so they would become men of understanding, knowing the prophecies the Lord had given their forefathers (engraved on Nephi's plates).

Benjamin also taught his sons concerning the records engraved on the brass plates, saying,

"My sons, I want you to remember, if it were not for these plates containing records and commandments, we would now be in ignorance, not knowing the mysteries of God. It would have been impossible for our forefather Lehi to have remembered all these things, and to have taught them to his children without these plates.

Lehi had been taught in the Egyptian language. This is why he could read the brass plates and teach them to his children. They in turn taught their children Egyptian, fulfilling God's commandments, even down to this present time.

My sons, if it were not for these brass plates that have been preserved by the hand of God, our forefathers would

have faltered in unbelief. We would be like the Lamanites, who know nothing about God's commandments and mysteries. They don't believe these things because they are misguided by their forefathers' false traditions. Remember this, for these records are true.

And these plates Nephi made, which contain our forefathers' words from the time they left Jerusalem until now, are also true. Remember to **search them diligently** so you may profit from them.

I want you to **obey God's commands** so you will prosper in the land, according to the promises He made to our forefathers."

King Benjamin taught many more things to his sons not written **here**.

As he grew old and realized he would soon die, he felt it necessary to confer the kingdom upon one of his sons. And so he called for Mosiah, named after his grandfather, and said to him,

"My son, I want you to make a proclamation throughout all the land of Zarahemla. Tell the people to assemble tomorrow, when I will proclaim that you are now a king and ruler over this people, whom the Lord our God has given us.

Tomorrow I will also give this people a **name to distinguish them** from all the people the Lord God has brought out of Jerusalem. I will do this because they have been diligently keeping the Lord's

commandments. It will **always** be their name unless they become sinful.

For if this people, who are now highly favored of the Lord, become wicked and adulterous, the Lord will deliver them to the Lamanites by **taking away** their strength and protection.

Then He will no longer save them by His matchless, marvelous power as He saved our forefathers. If the Lord had not extended His arm to save our forefathers, they would have fallen victim to the Lamanites, who hated them."

After King Benjamin said this to his son, he put him in charge of the kingdom.

He also gave Mosiah the brass plates,



Nephi's plates, Laban's sword and the Liahona — the **ball with spindles**, made by the Lord, which had **led** Lehi and his people through the wilderness when they diligently obeyed the Lord.

When **anyone** in Lehi's group had been **unfaithful**, the **whole group** did not progress in their journey. They were driven back and suffered hunger and pain. They felt God's displeasure in

order to remind them of their duty to Him.

Mosiah did as he was asked and made a proclamation to all the people in the land of Zarahemla to go up to the temple to hear his father speak.

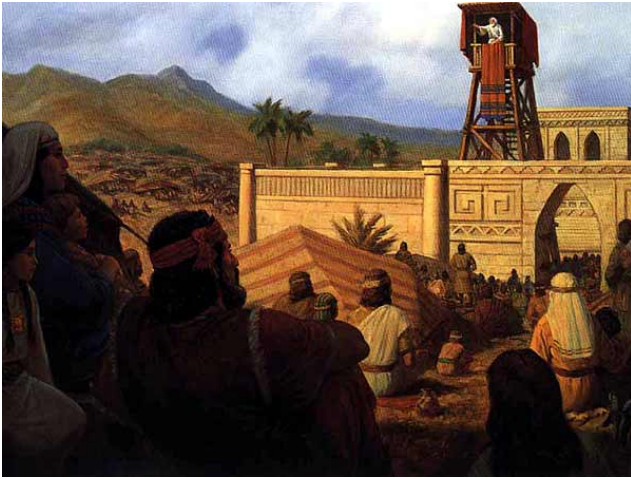
***King Benjamin
speaks to his people
See Mosiah, Chapter 2***

The next day all the people went up to the temple to hear King Benjamin.

The Nephites had become very numerous, even too numerous to count. They brought the firstborn of their flocks as sacrifices and burnt offerings according to the law of Moses. They gave thanks to the Lord their God, who had brought their forefathers out of Jerusalem and delivered them from their enemies.

They were also grateful for the **just men** who had been **appointed** to be their teachers, and for Benjamin, a just man, who had been **appointed** as their king. These just men had established peace in the land of Zarahemla and had taught the people to keep God's commandments, that they might rejoice and be filled with love toward God and all mankind.

Each family — a man with his wife, sons, daughters and grandchildren, from the oldest down to the youngest, set up separate tents around the temple. Their tent doors faced the temple so they could stay in their tents and still hear King Benjamin.



The multitude was so large that **all** the people could not fit **inside** the temple walls, and so King Benjamin had a tower built.

When he spoke from this tower many more people could hear him.

But as he started to speak, not everyone could hear, so King Benjamin had his words written and sent among those who were too far to hear him.

And these are Benjamin's words:

"My brothers and sisters, I have not commanded you to come here to **make light** of what I will tell you, but to open you hearts and minds, so that God's mysteries may be unfolded to your view.

I have not commanded you to come to fear me, or to make you think I'm more than mortal. Like everyone else, I too, am sometimes weak in body and mind.

But I've been **chosen** by you and **consecrated** by my father Mosiah, and I've been allowed to be your ruler and king. I've been **saved** by the Lord's matchless power to serve you with all

the might, mind and strength that He gives me.

I've spent my life in your service, not seeking gold, silver or any kind of riches from you. I have not allowed slavery or confinement in dungeons. I have **not** allowed murder, plunder, stealing or adultery.

I have **not** condoned any kind of wickedness, but I have taught you to keep all the Lord's commandments. I've even labored with my own hands to serve you so you would not be burdened with taxes. You, yourselves, know all these things.

I do not say these things to boast or to accuse you. I say these things so that you will know that I can answer to God with a clear conscience today.

Saying I've spent my days in your service doesn't mean I'm boasting, for I've only been serving God.

You will be wise when you learn that serving your brothers and sisters is serving your God.

If I your king work with my own hands to serve you, then shouldn't you do the same for one another?

And if I your earthly king (who serves God by serving you), deserve thanks, then how much more should you thank your Heavenly King!

If you gave God **all** the thanks and praise that you could, for creating and protecting you, and for giving you reason to rejoice and live in peace, it would **not** be enough.

He lends you breath to live, to move about, to do as you wish, supporting you from moment to moment.

If you served Him with **all** your souls forever, you could **never** do enough to profit Him. Yet **all** He requires of you is to keep His commandments. He has promised you that if you obey His commands, you will prosper in the land. And you see that He has blessed you.

But since He created you, giving you your life, you are still in debt to Him. He does not require payment for your life, but only for you to **keep** His commandments. When you do this, He **immediately** pays you with blessings.

Since you **still owe Him** for your life no matter **what** you do, how can you boast?

Can you, yourselves, say you are great?

No, you are **no greater than the dust** of the earth, for it was the Creator's dust from which you were created.

Even I, whom you call your king, am no better than you, for I, too, am made from dust. You see that I am old, and am about to give up this mortal body to its mother earth.

I have asked you to gather here so that **I might be found blameless**, so that your blood will **not** come upon me when I stand before God to be judged for the things I have done for you-- things that I have been **commanded** to do.

I do this to **rid** my robes of **your** blood before I die --that I might die in peace and my immortal spirit join the choirs above in singing praises to a just God.

I also need to tell you I can no longer be your teacher nor your king. For even now, my whole body shakes while I attempt to speak to you. But the Lord supports me, and He has commanded me to tell you that my son Mosiah is **now** your king and ruler.

Now, my brothers and sisters, continue to keep the Lord's commandments that my father, Mosiah, and I have given to you.

Because you have been keeping these commandments, you have prospered, and have been protected from your enemies.

If you continue to keep God's commandments that **will be given** to you by my son Mosiah, you will continue to prosper in the land, and your enemies will **never** have power over you.

But beware of contention **among you**, oh my people, which arise when you obey the evil spirit. There's a curse pronounced upon those who obey that spirit.

If you have **a knowledge of God's laws and transgress them**, choosing to obey the evil spirit, and then die in your sins, your souls will not progress (will be damned).

All of you, except your little children, have been taught these things. You

know that after you have given your Heavenly Father all the service and substance He requires, you will still owe Him, **never** being able to fully repay.

You've also been taught from the **brass plates**, which contain the ancient prophecies of the holy prophets down until the time our forefather Lehi left Jerusalem.

You also know everything spoken by our forefathers, who said what the Lord commanded them to say. This is why their words are just and true.

After having been taught all these things and knowing they are true, **if you go against them**, then you withdraw yourselves from the Lord's Spirit. Then you will no longer have Him as a guide to keep you on the paths of wisdom, which lead you to blessings prosperity and safety.

If you go against **what you know is true**, then you're in **open rebellion** against God, obeying the evil spirit. Then you become an enemy to all righteousness.

In this condition, the Lord cannot help you because He cannot send His Holy Spirit to live in unholy temples.

If you do not repent, but choose to remain an enemy to God until you die, then the demands of divine justice will **suddenly** awaken your immortal should to a clear awareness of your own guilt.

This will cause you to shrink from the Lord's presence and will fill your heart with guilt, pain and anguish, **like** an unquenchable fire with flames that go up forever and ever.

Mercy has no claim on such a person. His final doom, or judgment, is to endure this **never-ending** torment.

I have spoken plainly so that you may all understand, both old and young alike. Wake up and remember the awful situation of those who have fallen into transgression.

But more than this, I want you to consider the blessed and happy state of those who keep God's commandments. They are blessed in **all things**, both **temporal and spiritual**. If they are faithful to the end of their lives, they will be received into heaven to live with God in a state of never-ending happiness. Oh remember, remember that these things are true because the Lord God has spoken them."

*King Benjamin quotes an angel
See Mosiah, Chapter 3*

Listen carefully, brothers and sisters, because I have things to tell you of the **future**. An angel from God told me these things, saying, "**Awake!**"

I awoke and saw him before me, and he said,

"Listen, because I have come to give you news of great joy, for the Lord has heard your prayers and has judged you to be righteous. You will rejoice with

your people when you give them this news.

In not many years the Lord Omnipotent, who reigns for all eternity, will come down from heaven with power among His people. He will live in a mortal body, performing mighty miracles — healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, the deaf to hear, and curing all types of diseases. He will cast out the evil spirits that live in people's hearts.

He will suffer temptations, pain, hunger, thirst and fatigue that would certainly kill an ordinary man. His suffering and anguish for the sins of His people will be so great, He will sweat blood from all His pores. He will be called Jesus Christ — the Son of God --the Father of Heaven and Earth — the Creator of all things from the beginning.

His mother will be called Mary. He will come to save His own — those who have faith in Him. But after doing all this for His chosen people, they will treat Him like an ordinary man, and say, 'He is possessed by a devil.' Then they will whip and crucify Him.

After three days, He will rise from the dead and stand to judge the world. He will do all this to qualify to make perfect judgment upon all people. His blood will even atone for those who sin in ignorance — those who die not knowing God's will for them.

But there is great cursing upon those who do know God's will and rebel against it, for among such, only those who **repent** and **rely** upon the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved.

The Lord God has sent His holy prophets to give this news to all the people of the world. Those who believe in Christ and change their ways will be forgiven of their sins, and they may rejoice as though Christ had already come.

Because the Lord's **covenant** people -- the house of Israel --were **stubborn**, He gave them a **lower** law--the law of Moses. He showed them many signs, wonders, types and shadows of His coming. Their holy prophets also spoke of His coming.

But the children of Israel still hardened their hearts and did not understand that the law of Moses was given to prepare them to accept the atoning blood of Jesus Christ.

It is impossible for little children to sin. Even if they could sin, the law of Moses could not save them. Because Adam and Eve fell from God's presence, all their children are in an imperfect state. This is why Christ's blood will atone even for their little children.

It is important to know there is **no other** name or way that can save anyone other than Christ, the Lord Omnipotent, for His judgments are just.

Infants who die are saved in His kingdom because they are innocent. But those who know God's laws and refuse to humble themselves as children damn their own souls, for they do not believe their salvation has always been through the atoning blood of Christ, who is Lord over all things.

Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, all of their descendants are born into a fallen, natural state. As mortals, with natural desires to serve themselves, they are enemies to God forever. But if they allow the **Holy Spirit to guide them**, rejecting their natural desires, then they become saints through the atonement of Christ the Lord.



They become as submissive, meek, humble, patient and as full of love as children. They again become willing to learn all the lessons that the Lord sees fit to teach them, as if they were again children.

Standing before me, the angel concluded,

"In the **last days, all people throughout the world will know of the Savior**. When that time comes, only little children, and those who have become like them through repentance and faith in the Lord God Omnipotent, will be found innocent.

When you have given your people the knowledge that the Lord your God commanded you to give them, they will only **become innocent** in His sight if they have **repented**, with **faith** in their **Savior**."

I, Benjamin, have said everything the Lord God commanded me to say.

The Lord said **these words** will stand as a bright testimony against this people on judgment day, when **all will be judged** according to the good or evil they have done.

If they have done evil, they will see their own guilt and sins, which will cause them to cower in the Lord's presence. They will be in a state of misery and endless torment from which they cannot return having already damned their own souls.

Mercy will **never** claim them, for they will receive God's **justice** as Adam and Eve received (through the fall) for eating forbidden fruit. Their torment will be **like** a lake of fire and burning sulfur, with **unquenchable** flames and smoke rising up forever.

This is what the Lord commanded me to say.

***The Spirit fills the
People with joy!***

See Mosiah, Chapter 4

After King Benjamin finished quoting the angel, he saw the multitude bowing on the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them. They had **realized** that in their **carnal state** they were **lower than the dust** of the earth.

They all shouted with one voice, "Oh have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ to us, so our sins may be **forgiven** — that our **hearts** may be **purified**."



We **believe** in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven, the earth and all things, and who will come down among His people."

Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received **a remission of their sins and peace of conscience because of their great faith in Jesus Christ**, of whom King Benjamin had spoken.

Then King Benjamin said to the multitude, "My friends, brothers and

sisters, my family and my people. Listen and understand the rest of my words. The **knowledge** of the **goodness of God** has made you realize your **nothingness** in your fallen state. You now **know the goodness of God**, His matchless power, wisdom, patience and His long-suffering toward all people.

You **know** the atonement, planned from before the beginning of the world, brings salvation to those who trust the Lord and diligently keep His commandments throughout their lives.

This salvation is offered to Adam and Eve's descendants until the end of the world. This salvation, and the conditions for it, come **only through Christ**.

- **Believe** in God, that He created all things in heaven and earth.
- **Believe** He has **all** wisdom and power.
- **Believe** we **cannot** comprehend what the Lord comprehends.
- **Believe** you must **leave** your sinful ways and **not** go back to them.
- **Humble** yourselves before God, **sincerely asking** the Lord to forgive you.
- And if you **believe** these things, see that you **do** them.

I repeat, now that you **know the glory of God**, His goodness, having tasted of His love, having been forgiven, and having received His great joy, I want you to remember His **greatness** and your own nothingness.

Remember His goodness and patience, humbling yourselves as

much as you can, **praying** to the Lord daily with faith in Christ, who will come.

If you **do** this, **you will . . .**

- 1) Always **rejoice** and be filled with God's love.
- 2) Always **retain** a remission of your sins.
- 3) Grow in the **knowledge** of justice and truth (the glory of your Creator).
- 4) Live in **peace** and deal **justly** with one another because you will lose your desire to hurt anyone.
- 5) Not let your children go hungry or be ill-clothed.
- 6) Teach your children to obey God's laws, that they may **not serve the devil** by fighting and arguing with one another.

The devil is the **master of sin**, an **enemy to all righteousness**. He is the **evil spirit**, of whom our forefathers wrote.

Teach your children to . . .

- 1) Walk in the ways of truth.
- 2) Take God seriously.
- 3) Love and serve one another.

Help those who need your help, and **give** your substance to those who need it. Do not turn away those who ask for your help, saying,

This foolish man has brought on his own misery. I will not relieve his misery by giving him food or money. He deserves to suffer for his own mistakes. (compare Matthew 8:20, 25:40)

Anyone who **does** this has great need to repent or he or she will **spiritually perish forever**, having **no place in God's kingdom**.

For **we're all beggars!** We all depend upon the same Being, even God, for all we have . . . food, clothing and **all** our prosperity.

Today you've been calling on His name, begging to have your sins taken away. Have you begged in vain? No, because God poured out His Spirit on you, and you **could not even speak** because your hearts were filled with **so much joy**.

God, the one on whom you depend for your lives, and for everything you have and are, **gives** what you ask for, **if you ask in faith** for what's right, **believing** you will receive. **So how much more** should **you give** your substance to those in need?

If you judge and condemn those who ask you for substance **just to survive**, then you will be **condemned** for holding back. For what you think is yours is really God's, including your **life**.

Yet while under this condemnation, do you ask for God's forgiveness or change your ways? If you don't, then you are cursed, because your substance will perish with you.

I'm speaking to those who are rich in the things of the world.

And the poor who turn away the needy should say,

'I can't help you today because I have nothing to give, but if I had something, I'd give it to you.'

If you who are poor feel this way in your hearts, then you are guiltless. Otherwise, you are condemned for **not being willing in your hearts** to give up things you **don't even have**.

In order to be forgiven of your sins **each day**, walking guiltless before God, give your substance to the poor. Having **more**, the rich must give **more**. Having **less**, the poor will give **less**.



Yet **everyone** must **feed** the hungry, **clothe** the ill-clothed, and visit and relieve the sick according to their **wants**, both **spiritual** and **temporal**.

To obtain **eternal life**, it is **necessary** to **do** these things. But you must do them in wisdom and order, for you are **not required to give more than you are able**.

Whoever borrows something from his neighbor and does not return it when promised commits sin. He may also

prompt his neighbor to sin by becoming angry with him.

I cannot tell you all the ways you can sin because there are too many.

But this I can tell you . . .

. . . if you do not watch your actions, your **words**, and even **your thoughts**, and keep God's commands, having **faith in the coming** of our Lord until the end of your lives, **then you must perish spiritually**.

So **remember** these things, and do not perish.

*From faith to
knowledge and covenants
See Mosiah, Chapter 5*

After saying these things to his people, King Benjamin sent messengers among them to ask if they believed his words.

All the people looked up at King Benjamin and shouted with one voice, "Yes, **we believe everything** you have told us. We **know** it's the truth because the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent has brought about a mighty **change in our hearts**.

We **no longer have any desire to do evil**, but only to do good continually. We have **seen** what is coming through the infinite goodness of God and the manifestations of His Spirit.

If necessary, we could prophesy of **all** things.

Because we **first had faith** in what you our king told us, we are now overjoyed to have **a great knowledge** of it ourselves!

We are willing to **make a covenant** with our God to do His will, and to be obedient to His commandments in **all things** for the rest of our lives!

We do not want to bring a never ending torment upon ourselves and experience God's wrath, as the angel described."

King Benjamin responded,

"This is what I wanted to hear. The **covenant** you have made is righteous.

Because of the **change made in your hearts** through **faith in His name**, and because of the **covenant** you have



made, you will be called *The Children of Christ*, for today you have been **spiritually born** of Him, and have become **His sons and daughters**.

Only as *Children of Christ* can you be made free, for no other name could free you and save your souls from hell.

Remember, all who have entered into this covenant with God should be **obedient** to Him for the rest of their

lives. Those who do this will be found at the **right hand of God**, with Christ.

Those who are righteous will know their name, for they will be called,

The Children of Christ.

Those who do not take the name of Christ upon themselves must be called by **another name**, and they will find themselves on the **left hand** of God.

Children of Christ is the name I said I would give to you — a name that will never be forgotten in your hearts, unless you sin.

Remember to always keep this name **written in your hearts** so you will not be found on the **left hand** of God, so you will **recognize** His voice and know the name by which He will call you.

For how can you know someone you have not served, a stranger to you, far from the thoughts and intentions of your heart?



Does a shepherd keep his neighbor's goat? No. He will not even allow it to feed among his sheep. He will drive it out, away from his flock. Your fate will be like the goat's if you don't recognize your Shepherd's voice, if you're not one of His sheep.

Be strong and immovable, always doing good works. If you do this, then Christ the **Lord God Omnipotent** will

seal you His. Then you will be brought to heaven—to everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, **power, justice and mercy** of Him who created all things in heaven and earth, who is God above all. Amen.”

Mosiah made king
See Mosiah, Chapter 6

After speaking, King Benjamin felt it necessary to **write the names** of all who had entered a covenant with God to keep His commands. Everyone in the multitude, except their little children, had entered the covenant, taking the name of Christ upon themselves.



Then King Benjamin consecrated his son 36 year old son Mosiah to be a ruler and king over his people, giving him charge of everything concerning the kingdom.

Benjamin appointed priests to teach God’s commandments to the people, to

help them always remember the oath they had made. Then he dismissed the multitude, and they all returned to their homes with their families.

In the year 124 BC, at age thirty, Mosiah began to reign in his father's place. About 476 years had passed since Lehi had left Jerusalem.

King Benjamin lived three more years and then died in 121 BC.

King Mosiah walked in the ways of the Lord, observing His judgments, statutes and commandments. He told his people to farm the earth. Like his father, he himself farmed so he would not be a burden to his people.

16 men search
for their brethren
See Mosiah, Chapter 7

After three years of peace, King Mosiah wanted to know about his people (Zeniff and his followers) who had gone to live in the city of Lehi-Nephi, for none of Mosiah's people had heard from them since they had left the land of Zarahemla 56 years prior (in 174 BC— 20 years before Mosiah had been born).

Mosiah's people constantly bothered him, asking permission to send out a search party. King Mosiah finally allowed 16 of their strong men to **go up** to the **land of Lehi-Nephi** to learn of their brethren.

The next day the search party set off. They were led by Ammon, a strong, mighty man and a descendant of

Zarahemla. He and his men didn't know the way to the land of Lehi-Nephi, so they wandered in the wilderness for 40 days.

Finally they camped on a hill, from where they could see the land of **Shilom** to the south. From their camp, Ammon took three of his brethren, Amaleki, Helem and Hem. The four **went down into the land of Nephi**. Outside the city walls, they approached the king of the people in the land of Nephi and the city of Shilom.

The king's guard quickly surrounded and captured them and threw them in prison. After spending two days in prison, they were brought before the king and untied. They stood before the king and were ordered to answer his questions.

The king said, "I am Limhi, son of Noah. My grandfather, Zeniff, led people **up** out of the land of Zarahemla to inherit this land, which was once the land of our forefathers. After arriving here, the people he had led voted him to be their king.

Now, why were you so bold as to come near the city walls when I was outside the gate with my guards? I could have had my guards kill you, but I wanted to ask **why** you were so bold. You may speak."

Then Ammon bowed before the king, and upon rising said, "Oh king, I am very thankful before God to be alive, to be allowed to speak. I will speak with

boldness, for I'm sure if you had known me, you would not have had me bound.

I am Ammon, a descendant of Zarahemla. I have come from there to discover what happened to our brethren, whom your grandfather, Zeniff, brought out of our land 56 years ago."

When Limhi heard this he was very happy and said, "Now I know for sure my brethren **in the land of Zarahemla** are yet alive! Now I will rejoice, and tomorrow I will cause my people to also rejoice! For at this time we're in bondage to the Lamanites, paying them a **high tax**, which is very difficult to do.

And now our fellow Nephites will deliver us from this Lamanite bondage, and we will be **their** slaves if they want us to. For it's better to be slaves to Nephites than to pay tribute to the Lamanite king!"

Then King Limhi told his guards to untie Ammon and his brethren. Then Ammon and his men went up the **hill north of Shilom** to bring the rest of the men down into the city, to eat, drink and rest from their long, hard journey.

The next day, King Limhi sent a proclamation among all his people, to assemble at the temple to hear him speak.

After they had gathered, Limhi said, "Oh my people, lift up your heads and be comforted, for soon we will no longer be controlled by our enemies, in

spite of all our futile resistance. I believe we may yet be effective in our struggle.

Lift up your heads, rejoice, and put your trust in that God who is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — the same God who brought the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, to walk through the Red Sea on dry ground -- He who fed them with manna in the wilderness, who did many more things for them.

Trust that same God who brought our fathers out of Jerusalem, who has kept and preserved His people even until now. We know it's because of our sinfulness that He brought us into bondage.

You're all witnesses today that my grandfather, Zeniff (who was made king over this people), was overzealous to inherit the land of his forefathers. Then he was deceived by the cunning, crafty King Laman, who made a treaty with Zeniff, giving him possession of part of the land — the city of Lehi-Nephi, the city of Shilom and the surrounding area.

King Laman did this in order to bring Zeniff and his people into bondage. Even now we must pay a **50% annual tribute** to King Laman of all our grain, increase of flocks and herds, and of everything we own, or he will kill us.

Isn't this a terrible tax? Isn't our affliction great? What great reason we have to mourn!

Yes, we do have great reason to mourn, for many of our brethren have died in vain, all because of sinfulness. If this people had **not been so sinful**, the Lord would not have allowed this great evil to come upon us. But they would not listen to the Lord. Instead, they fought among themselves and killed one another.

Before that war, they killed Abinadi, a prophet of the Lord. He was a chosen man of God, who told them of their great wickedness. He prophesied many things, and of the coming of Christ. He told them Christ was God, the Father of all things, and that He would come down among His people to take upon Himself a body of flesh and blood in the image of man, who was created in God's image.

Because Abinadi said these things, they killed him. They also did many other things to bring God's wrath down upon them. This is why we're so sorely afflicted and in bondage. For the Lord has said,

'I will not protect my people when they transgress. I will keep them from prospering, and everything they do will become a stumbling block before them. If my people plant filthiness, then they will harvest its chaff in the whirlwind--the east wind, which will affect them like poison, bringing immediate destruction.'

Now this promise of the Lord is fulfilled, and you are stricken and afflicted. But if you will turn to the

Lord with full purpose of heart, trusting and serving Him with all diligence of mind, He will deliver you out of bondage according to His own will and pleasure."

***King Limhi presents
Plates to Ammon
See Mosiah, Chapter 8***

King Limhi said many other things to his people not written in this book, telling them of their fellow Nephites in Zarahemla.

Then Limhi had Ammon tell them everything that had happened in Zarahemla over the last 56 years, from the time Zeniff left until Ammon and his 15 companions went to search for them.

Ammon also repeated and explained King Benjamin's last speech to King Limhi's people so they would know and understand Benjamin's prophecies of Christ.

After all this, King Limhi dismissed the multitude and they returned to their homes.

Then Limhi brought a set of plates to Ammon which contained the record of his people from the time his grandfather Zeniff left the land of Zarahemla.

When Ammon finished reading this record, Limhi asked him if he could interpret languages. Ammon told him he could not.

Limhi then explained to Ammon, "Being grieved over the afflictions of

my people, I sent 43 men into the wilderness **to find the land of Zarahemla**, to ask their fellow Nephites to deliver us out of bondage. These men **became lost** in the wilderness for many days. They never found the land of Zarahemla, and returned home, having traveled through **a land of many lakes and rivers**. They discovered a land covered with the bones of people and animals, and with the ruins of all types of buildings.

The land had once been populated with as many people as the hosts of Israel.

To prove their findings, my men brought back **24 plates of pure gold**, filled with engravings. They also brought large breastplates in perfect condition, made of brass and copper, and rusty swords with the handles rusted away.

No one in this land is able to interpret the language engraved on the plates. This is why I asked if you could translate. If not, perhaps you know someone who can.

I want these records to be translated into our language, for maybe they will tell us about any of the survivors of those who were destroyed, and from where these plates came. Or maybe the plates will tell us about the very people who were destroyed. I'm very curious to know how they were destroyed."

Ammon replied, "I know of a man who **can translate** ancient records by simply looking at them through what

are called interpreters. This is a gift from God. No man can look into them unless commanded to, or else he would look for what he should not, and perish. Whoever is commanded to look into them is called a seer, or **one who sees**.

The man who has this high gift from God is King Mosiah, king of the people of Zarahemla."

Limhi said, "A seer must be greater than a prophet!"

Ammon explained, "A seer is both a revelator **and** a prophet. No man can have a greater gift from God unless he possesses God's power, which no man can. But a man can be given great power from God.

A seer can know **the past and the future**. Through a seer, **all things** are revealed, secret things shown, and hidden things brought light. God has provided this method for a man, through faith, to work mighty miracles and become a great benefit to his fellow beings."

King Limhi was overjoyed at hearing this news. He thanked God, saying, "No doubt a great mystery is contained within these plates. These interpreters must have been prepared for the purpose of unfolding all such mysteries to all people.

Oh, how marvelous are the works of the Lord! How long He suffers with His people.

And how blind and dense people are in their understanding, for they will not

seek to be **governed by wisdom**. They are like a wild flock running from the shepherd, and once scattered, are chased and eaten by wild animals."

*52 year history of Zeniff,
Which includes . . .*

12 years of peace in the land of Nephi

18 years warring with the Lamanites

22 years of peace.

See Mosiah, Chapter 9

*Now I, Mormon, will transcribe
some of Zeniff's own writings
(chapters 9-10) . . .*

I, Zeniff, was taught both Nephite languages (Hebrew for speaking and reformed Egyptian for engraving).

I also knew of our forefather, Nephi, and of the land that he and his people had settled.

I was sent out to spy on the Lamanites who had taken over the **land of Nephi** — to see how our army could destroy them. But when I saw the good things they were doing, I did not want them to die.

I returned to our camp, asking our leader to make a treaty with the Lamanites. But instead of doing that, our leader, a strict, bloodthirsty man, ordered our men to kill me. I was spared because many disagreed with our leader, and a battle broke out between fellow Nephites.

Father fought against father and brother against brother. Only fifty of us survived the battle, and we returned to Zarahemla to tell the sad tale to the

wives and children of those who had been killed.

And yet I, being **over-zealous** to inherit the land of our fathers, **gathered many** who also wanted to regain the land of our forefathers.

We started out again on our journey into the wilderness. We suffered with hunger and fatigue because **we were slow** to remember the Lord our God.

After many days wandering around, we camped where our brethren had killed one another, near the land of Nephi.

Then I went into the city with four of my men. We went to ask the Lamanite king if I might go in with my people and possess the land in peace.

Laman, the king, covenanted with me that I could possess the land of Lehi-Nephi and the land of Shilom. He even commanded his people to leave the land so that my people could take possession of it.

After coming into the land, we began to construct buildings and to repair the city walls of Lehi-Nephi and Shilom.

We farmed the land and raised **corn, wheat, barley** and other crops. We also planted all types of fruit from seeds, and began to multiply and prosper in the land.

But from the beginning, King Laman was being crafty, planning to bring my people into bondage. This is why he gave us the lands so easily.

Twelve years after our arrival, King Laman started getting restless, seeing us grow stronger by the day. He knew if he didn't overtake us soon, bringing us into bondage, it would soon be too late.

The Lamanites were lazy and idolatrous. They wanted to bring us into bondage so they could feast upon our flocks while we did all the work. This is why King Laman stirred up his people to fight with mine, and we began to have wars in the land.

After **18 years** of warring, during the 13th year of my reign, in the southern part of Shilom, my people were watering and feeding their flocks and working their lands. All at once, a very large Lamanite army attacked them and began to kill them in their fields, taking their flocks and corn.

My people ran from the army. Those who were not overtaken ran to the city of Nephi, calling upon me for protection! I armed them with bows and arrows, swords, scimitars, clubs, slings and with all the weapons we could invent. Then I went out with my people to battle the Lamanites.

Note: a **scimitar** is a sword with a short, curved one-edged blade.

We went with the strength of the Lord against them, for we all cried mightily to Him to deliver us from our enemies, remembering how our forefathers had been delivered.

God **heard our cries and answered our prayers**. We went forth in **His**

might against the Lamanites. In one day and night we killed 3,043 of them and drove the rest out of our land. I helped bury them.

And to our great sorrow, 279 of our brethren had been killed (an 11 to 1 kill rate).

***Nephites rely on
God for strength
See Mosiah, Chapter 10***

After this war, we established our kingdom again in peace. I told my people to make every kind of weapon to be used if the Lamanites attacked us again. I set guards around the land to watch for Lamanites and to protect my people and my flocks, and we continued to live in the land of our forefathers for an additional 22 years. Our men continued to farm the land, raising all types of grain and fruit, and our women spun all types of cloth and fine linen. We **peacefully** prospered in the land during those 22 years.

Then King Laman died, and his son began to reign in his stead. He encouraged his people to rebel against my people and to prepare for war again.

I had sent spies around the land of Shemlon to find out what the Lamanites were doing. My spies saw a very large Lamanite army coming into northern Shilom, armed with bows and arrows, swords, scimitars, stones and slings. They had shaved their heads and wore nothing but a leather loincloth.

Knowing their plans, we hid our women and children in the wilderness. All our young and old men who were able-bodied were armed and placed in ranks according to age. Then we fought the Lamanites.

Even I Zeniff in my old age (most likely around 75 years old) fought. We went to battle **strengthened by the Lord**.

The Lamanites were ignorant of the Lord and of His strength. They depended on their own strength, being strong as to the strength of men, and they were wild, ferocious and blood-thirsty.

They believed in the false traditions of their forefathers, Laman and Lemuel, who had taught their children Lehi's sins had caused him and his family to be thrown out of Jerusalem. They taught their children they had been treated badly by Nephi in the wilderness and while crossing the ocean.

Laman and Lemuel had also taught their children they were wronged after arriving in the land of their first inheritance.

The **truth** was **Nephi was favored** by the Lord who heard and answered his prayers because he had been **more faithful** in keeping the Lord's commandments. This is also why Nephi had been Laman and Lemuel's leader during their wilderness journey.

Laman and Lemuel had hated Nephi because they had **not understood** how the Lord deals with His people.

They were angry with Nephi because they hardened their hearts against the Lord while crossing the ocean. They still hated Nephi upon arriving in the promised land, saying he had taken the leadership of the people away from them, and they had planned to kill him.

They hated Nephi because the Lord had told him to take the brass plates and depart into the wilderness. Because he did this, they said Nephi had robbed them.

Laman and Lemuel taught their children this eternal hatred toward Nephi and his followers. They taught their children to murder, rob and plunder the Nephites, and to do everything in their power to destroy them.

This is why King Laman deceived me with his cunning, lying craftiness and fair promises. All he wanted was to bring my people into this land so he could destroy them. And we have suffered for many years in this land.

I Zeniff **told all these things** to my people **to motivate them** to fight with their might while putting their **trust in the Lord**.

Then we fought the Lamanites face to face. We drove them out of our land again, killing too many of them to count.

Then we returned to our land, and my people tended their flocks and raised food again.

Since I was growing old, I conferred the kingdom upon one of my sons, Noah. This is all that I will engrave. May the Lord bless my people.

*Zeniff's son Noah is corrupt,
Abinidi cries repentance
See Mosiah, Chapter 11*

Now I, Mormon, will continue to write about Zeniff's people while referring to the records of King Benjamin and his son Mosiah (chapters 11-22).

King Noah did not follow the ways of his father Zeniff. Rather than keep God's commandments, Noah followed the **desires of his own heart**. He had many wives and mistresses. He also allowed his people to commit adultery and other sins offensive to the Lord.

He imposed a **20% tax** on everything the people owned and acquired. This meant his people had to give him **20%** of all their gold, silver, copper, brass, iron, cattle, sheep and grain.

Noah did this to support himself, his priests, and all their wives and mistresses. He completely changed the way the kingdom was run, replacing all the humble priests his father had consecrated with new, proud ones.

Noah and his priests were supported in their laziness, materialism and immorality by Noah's high taxes, which the people worked hard to pay.

Soon **the people had also become materialistic**, being deceived by the vain and flattering words of their king and his priests.

King Noah built many elegant and spacious buildings, finely decorated with wood and precious metals. Noah had a spacious palace built with a throne in the middle of it. This palace was lavishly decorated with precious metals and woodwork.

Noah also hired fine craftsman to decorate the inside of the temple with wood, copper and brass. The seats for the high priests, trimmed with pure gold, were placed above the other seats. A pulpit was built for them to lean on and to rest their arms while they spoke vain and lying words to the people.

King Noah had a very high tower built next to the temple, upon which he could overlook all the surrounding lands, including his land of Shilom and the Lamanite land of Shemlon.

With the tax money, Noah ordered many buildings to be built in Shilom and a great tower to be built on a hill north of Shilom. That hill had once been a hiding place for the Nephites' forefathers when fleeing from their lands.

Note: "fleeing the land of Nephi"
([Omni 1:12-13](#))

Noah loved his riches and spent his time in riotous living with his wives and mistresses. His priests also spent their time with prostitutes.

Noah told his people to plant vineyards and build wine-presses in order to make lots of wine. He and his people soon became drunkards.

Then small groups of Lamanites began to attack his people, killing them in their fields. King Noah responded by posting guards around the land, but not enough, so the Lamanites killed the guards and stole the people's flocks.

This is how the Lamanites in their hatred began to destroy the Nephites under King Noah's reign.

After these attacks, King Noah sent out armies who drove the Lamanites back and then returned, boasting of their victory. They were very proud, **boasting in their own strength**, saying 50 of them could fight thousands of Lamanites. They delighted in war because of their wicked king and his priests.

Then a man named Abinadi (Ah-bin-ah-dee) went among the people and began to prophesy . . .

"The Lord has commanded me to tell you that you are cursed, for He has seen your great sins, wickedness and immorality.

Unless you repent, He will visit you in His anger. **Unless you repent**, and turn to the Lord your God, He will deliver you into the hands of your enemies, who will afflict you and bring you into bondage. Then you will know that the Lord is your God, that He demands

loyalty, and that He punishes the sins of His people.

Unless you repent and turn to the Lord, you will be brought into bondage, and no one but the Lord the Almighty God will be able to deliver you.

Then when you cry to the Lord, He will be **slow** to hear you, and He will allow your enemies to keep afflicting you.

And then **unless you repent** in the depths of humility, crying mightily to the Lord your God, He will not hear your prayers, nor will He deliver you."

After Abinadi said this to the people, they became angry with him and tried to kill him, but the Lord delivered him out of their hands. When King Noah heard what Abinadi had said, he was very angry and said,

"Who does Abinadi think he is, judging my people? And who is the Lord, saying He will afflict my people? Guards, bring Abinadi to me. He is trying to stir up my people to fight among themselves. For doing this, he will die!"

Because the people **had been blinded** to the truth, they would not listen to Abinadi. They were determined to find and kill him, but he could not be found.

King Noah also **hardened his heart** against the Lord's word, not repenting of his evil deeds.

Abinadi's warnings rejected ***See Mosiah, Chapter 12***

Two years later, Abinadi came among them again, this time in disguise, saying,

"The Lord commanded me,

'Abinadi, go and prophesy to my people, for they have hardened their hearts against my words. They have not repented of their evil doings, so I will visit them in my fierce anger.'

This generation is cursed, for the Lord said to me,

'Stretch forth your hand and prophesy:

Thus saith the Lord, this generation will be brought into bondage because of their sins. They will be slapped in the face, driven by their enemies and killed.

Vultures, dogs and wild animals will eat their carcasses. King Noah's life will be as worthless as an old coat burned in a furnace. And at that time, he will know I am the Lord. Then I will afflict my people with drought, famine and pestilence, and they will suffer.

I will allow burdens to be placed on their backs, and they will be driven like dumb mules. I will send hail and the east wind to afflict them. Insects will eat their grain, and I will afflict them with a great pestilence.

I will do all this because of their great sinfulness. If they will not repent after all this, I will completely destroy them off the face of the earth.

But they will leave their record, which I will preserve for future nations that will possess their lands. By reading their record, these future nations will be given a vivid warning not to repeat



their sins."

This is how Abinadi prophesied against the people, and they became angry with him again. They tied him, carried him to King Noah and said,

"This man has prophesied evil about your people, saying, 'God will destroy all of you'. He has prophesied about you, saying, 'King Noah's life will be as worthless as an old coat that is burned.'

He said your burned body will be like a dry stalk of corn that is trampled by people and animals--that your ashes will be like ripe thistle blossoms blowing in the wind across the land. He pretends the Lord has said these things to him, and that all this will come upon you, oh King, unless you repent.

And now, oh King, what great evil have you done, and what great sins have your people committed to deserve this man's judgment and God's condemnation?

This man has lied about you and has prophesied in vain. We know how strong we are. We will not come into bondage or be captured by our enemies. You have prospered in the land and will continue to prosper. Here is the man. We deliver him into your hands to do whatever you wish with him."

King Noah had Abinadi put in prison and then called his priests together to counsel with him. The priests told King Noah they wanted to question Abinadi, so the king had him brought before them. The priests began to question Abinadi so they could accuse him of some crime. But to their astonishment, Abinadi answered their questions boldly, confounding them. Then one of the priests asked Abinadi, "What do these written words mean that have been taught by our forefathers?"

'How beautiful will be the sight of him among the nations — he who will bring good news, announcing peace and salvation, who will say to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Your watchmen will sing aloud together, for they will be equal when the Lord establishes Zion.

Break forth in joy, singing together, you who are in the war-ravished places of Jerusalem, for the Lord has comforted His people and has redeemed you.

He has shown His great power as all the nations watched, and throughout the earth, all will yet see the salvation of our God!"

understanding. This is why you are not wise. What *do* you teach this people?"

The priests replied, "**We teach the law of Moses.**"

Abinadi responded, "If you teach the law of Moses, then why don't you keep it? Why do you set your hearts upon riches? Why do you commit adultery with prostitutes, causing this people to also commit sin?"

This is why the Lord has sent me to



Abinadi answered,

"How can you call yourselves priests? You pretend to teach this people, and pretend to understand the **spirit of prophecy** — yet you ask me what that means? If you do understand these things, you certainly do not teach them. Because of this, you have distorted the Lord's ways and you are cursed! In your hearts you have not desired

prophecy a great evil against this people. Do you know I speak the truth? Yes, you do know, and you should be trembling before God.

Soon you will be stricken for your sinfulness, for you have said you teach the law of Moses, but you know nothing about it. Does salvation come by the law of Moses? What do you say?"

They answered salvation does come by the law of Moses.

Then Abinadi said, "I know you will be saved if you keep the commandments the Lord gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai, saying,

'I am the Lord thy God who has brought you out of bondage in Egypt. Worship no God but me. Do not create images for worship that look like anything in heaven or on earth.'"

Abinadi then asked, "Have you obeyed these commandments and taught this people to also obey them? No, you have not."

Abinadi questions the priests
See Mosiah, Chapter 13

Upon hearing this, Noah said to his priests, "Why do you keep this crazy man around? Take him away and kill him!"

The priests stepped forward to take hold of Abinadi, but he boldly said to them, "Do not touch me! God will strike you if you do, for I have not yet delivered the Lord's message to you nor explained Isaiah's words as you asked me to. Until I do this, God will not allow me to be killed. For I must fulfill the commandments that God has given me.

Noah, because I told you the truth, speaking God's words, you are angry with me and say that I am crazy."

Because the Lord's Spirit was upon Abinadi, no one dared touch him. His face shone very brightly, the way

Moses' face shone while he spoke with the Lord on Mt. Sinai.

With God's power and authority, Abinadi continued, "Now that you **realize** you do not have the power to kill me, I will finish my message.

I know my words cut you **to the center** of your hearts, for they testify of your sins. My words fill you with wonder, amazement, and anger!

After I deliver my message to you, it will not matter where I go, as long as my soul is saved. But whatever you do with me **will be a type and shadow of the future.**

Now I will read the rest of God's commandments. I see that they are not written in your hearts because you have studied and taught sin for most of your lives. The Lord said,

- 1.** Do not create images for your worship that look like anything in heaven, on earth, or in the water.
- 2.** Do not worship them, for I the Lord thy God demand loyalty. My judgments will come against those who hate me, even until their third and fourth generations. But I will show mercy to thousands of the descendants of those who love me and keep my commandments.
- 3.** Do not take the Lord's name in vain, because He will not consider those who do that to be guiltless.
- 4.** Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. Do all your work in six days, but on the seventh day, the Sabbath of the

Lord thy God, do not do any work --not you, your son, daughter, servants, cattle, nor your guests. The Lord made heaven, earth, the sea and everything in them in six days. Then the Lord blessed the seventh day--the Sabbath, making it holy.

5. Honor your father and mother. If you do this, the Lord your God will give you a long life upon the land of your inheritance.

6. Do not kill.

7. Do not commit adultery.

8. Do not steal.

9. Do not lie about your neighbor.

10. Do not covet your neighbor's spouse, nor anything that belongs to your neighbor."

After saying this, Abinadi asked Noah's priests, "Have you taught the people to keep these commands?"

No, you have not, for if you had, the Lord would not have sent me to prophesy evil about this people.

You said salvation comes by the law of Moses. I tell you it is necessary to keep the law of Moses for now, but in the future it will not be necessary to keep it.

Salvation does not come by the law of Moses alone, for **if the atonement were not made** by God Himself for the sins of His people, they would all die spiritually — *even after keeping the law of Moses!*

It was necessary for the Lord to give the children of Israel a very strict law because they were stubborn, quick to sin, and slow to remember the Lord their God. If this strict, daily law of performances and ordinances had not been given them, they would not have remembered God and their duty to Him.

All of their performances and ordinances were **types of things to come**.

But did the children of Israel understand the law? No. Most of them **did not understand** it because of their **pride**, which kept them from realizing they could only be saved through God's redemption.

Moses prophesied to them about the coming of the Messiah, that God would redeem His people.

All of the prophets since the world began have said the same. They have **all** said God Himself would come down among His people, take the form of a man, and go forth in mighty power upon the face of the earth. All the prophets said He would be oppressed and afflicted, then bring to pass the **resurrection of the dead.**"

*Abinadi's warnings rejected
See Mosiah, Chapter 14*

"Even Isaiah said,
'Who has had **faith** in my revelations, which faith allows the Lord to show His power--to reveal His arm on their behalf? For Jesus Christ will grow up

before the Father like a tender plant,
like a root coming out from dry ground.

He will look like **any other man**, so
the people will not accept Him as their
Savior. He will be despised and
rejected, and will become a man of
sorrow, acquainted with grief.

The people will **turn away** from Him,
considering Him to be of little worth.

Surely He will bear the grief and
sorrow for our sins, but the people will
think it's God who is smiting and
afflicting Him. He will be wounded for
our transgressions, bruised for our sins,
chastised for our peace, and whipped
that we might be healed.

All of us are like sheep gone astray.
Because we have gone our own way,
the Lord will **take all our sins upon
Himself**.



Oppressed and afflicted, He will not
speak, but will be silent like a lamb
brought to the slaughter.

He will not be put in prison nor receive
a fair trial.

And after He is dead, having been
killed for my people's sins, who will be
called His children?

He will be buried among the wicked
and the rich, even though He will do no
evil nor speak deceitfully to anyone.
The Savior will be bruised and will
grieve.

The Father will offer His Son, **who will
live again** to see His children. For the
Father will witness and be satisfied
with the travail of His Son's soul.

By His **knowledge**, the Savior will
justify many, for He will bear the sins
of His people. Because the Son will
pour out His soul and be killed, and
will make **an intercession for our sins**,
the Father will give Him an inheritance
among the great. And in turn, the Son
will **give an inheritance to His
children**.'

Note: Concerning this inheritance,
see [D&C 84:37-38](#)

*Abinadi explains Isaiah
See Mosiah, Chapter 15*

I want you to know God Himself will
come down among His people to
redeem them.

Because He will have a **mortal** body,
He will be called the **Son** of God. And
because He will **do the Father's will** in
the flesh, He will be **called the Father**.

And again, because He will
be **conceived by the power of God**, He
will be **called the Father**. And because

He will be **partly mortal**, He will be called the **Son**.

And this is **how** the Father and **His Son** are **one God**, the very Eternal Father of Heaven and Earth.

As the Son in the flesh submits to the Holy Spirit, His **desires** become the **desires** of the Father, and the Savior will **not** give in to temptation.

He will allow Himself to be mocked, scourged, thrown out and disowned by His people.

After suffering all this, and after working many mighty miracles among His people, He will be led, as Isaiah said,



'Like a lamb to the slaughter, to be crucified and slain,' giving up His will to the will of His Father.

This is how God will break the bands of death and gain victory over it. He will give the Son the power to **intercede** on our behalf — to plead our cause through His mercy.

The Savior will be able to do this because He will take **the sins of all people** upon Himself, redeeming them and **satisfying the demands of justice**.

He will **break** the bands of death and go into heaven with mercy and compassion toward all people, standing **between**, them and justice.

And who will be called His children? After offering His body and spirit for sin, He will see His children, whom He has spiritually borne. And who do you think His children will be?

Note: The Children of Christ
Mosiah 5:7, 26:18, 24

They will be those who believe the holy prophets, who prophesy the Lord will come to redeem His people. They will be those who **look forward** to Him for a remission of their sins, patiently waiting to inherit God's kingdom.

For Christ will bear the sins of His people and die for them to redeem them from their transgressions. These people are called,

The Children of Christ

All the holy prophets who have spoken of Christ since the world began are also His children, for they have published peace, bringing good news of salvation to Zion, saying, '**Your God reigns!**'



The sight of them will be beautiful **among the nations**. Those who continue to publish peace will also be beautiful to see **among the nations!**

And again, those who publish peace from now until all eternity will be beautiful among **the nations!**

But this is not all. For how beautiful it will be to see the Lord **among the nations**, who will redeem His people, granting them salvation, and bringing good news as the founder of their peace.

Without the redemption of Christ, which was planned from the beginning of the world, everyone would die and never rise again. But the bands of death **will** be broken, and the Son **will** reign with power over the dead, bringing to pass their resurrection!

The first to be resurrected **will** be the righteous who lived before Christ. The first resurrection **will** also include prophets and all who believed and kept God's commandments. They **will** be raised to live with their Redeemer and have eternal life through Christ's redemption.

Those who die in ignorance of Christ, who have not had salvation preached to them, will **also be redeemed** by the Lord and be a part of the first resurrection — will have eternal life. And little children who die also have eternal life.

But you priests should be trembling before God, for since the world began

the Lord has **never redeemed those who have willfully rebelled** against Him and died in their sins — those who knew His commandments and refused to keep them.

Such people will have **no part** in the first resurrection. This is why you should tremble. For salvation cannot come to you in your condition. The Lord cannot deny Himself by redeeming men such as you when justice has its rightful claim on you.

In the last days, the Lord's salvation will be declared to **every nation, tribe and people, in all languages**. The Lord's watchmen — His righteous servants --will sing aloud together, for they will be one when the Lord again brings Zion.

Then it will be declared (Abinadi quoting Isaiah again),

*'You in the war-ravished places of Jerusalem, break forth into joy, singing together, for the Lord has comforted and redeemed you. All have seen the Lord **show** His great power, and now the people from **all** parts of the earth will yet **see** His salvation!'*

***Abinadi tells the fate
of the wicked
See Mosiah, Chapter 16***

Then Abinadi stretched out his hand and said, "The time will come when **all the people of the earth**, in every nation, tribe, and of every language, **will witness** the Lord's salvation. They will understand the

truth together, and they will **confess** before God that His judgments are **just**.

After this, **the wicked will be cast out** to their own place. They will have good reason to moan, cry, wail and clench their teeth, for they will **not** be redeemed, having **ignored** the Lord's voice.

After they die, the wicked will **still be carnal and devilish**, and the devil will **still have power over them**.

After the devil deceived Adam and Eve, they fell into this lower world. This is why their



descendants are carnal, sensual and devilish when without God's Spirit. And in this fallen state, we would all be lost forever if God did not redeem us.

But all **who choose to remain** in their fallen state, to be controlled by their own carnal nature, going the way of sin and rebellion against God, **will remain in the devil's power**. For them it will be as if no redemption had ever been

made, because like the devil, they will be **God's enemies**.

If Christ does **not come** to earth, there will be no **redemption** from sin.

If Christ does **not rise** from the dead, breaking the bands of death and gaining a **victory over the grave**, there will be no **resurrection**.

But **there will be a redemption and a resurrection!** The grave will **not** have the final victory because Christ **will** come. He is the **light** and **life** of the world, putting an end to **darkness** and **death forever**.

Because of Christ, all people will be resurrected and then brought to stand before the bar of God, to be judged by Him according to their good or evil works. If their works were good, they will be resurrected to endless life and happiness. If their works were evil, they will be resurrected to endless damnation, which is to become one of the devil's subjects.

The damned will have lived on earth according to **their own carnal wills and desires** - having **never prayed** to the Lord while His arms of mercy were

extended to them — having **never repented** after being warned.

You priests should now tremble and repent of your sins, remembering you can only be saved in and through Christ.

If you teach the **law of Moses**, then teach it's **a symbol** of things to come. Teach redemption comes through **Christ the Lord**, the very Eternal Father of our salvation.”

Alma defends Abinadi
See Mosiah, Chapter 17

After Abinadi finished speaking, King Noah commanded the priests to take him away and kill him. But one of Noah's young priests, Alma, a descendant of Nephi, believed Abinadi's testimony of their sinfulness.

Alma pled with King Noah to not be angry with Abinadi, but to let him go in peace. This just made Noah even more furious. He had Alma thrown out and sent his servants after him to kill him, but Alma escaped and hid.

During the next several days in hiding, **Alma wrote down everything Abinadi had said.**

After throwing Alma out, King Noah told his guards to surround Abinadi, to tie him and throw him in prison.

After three days, and after counseling with his priests, King Noah called for Abinadi and said to him, "**We have found you guilty of a crime punishable by death, for you have said God Himself will come down among the**

people. If you do not recall all your evil words about me and my people, you will die!"

Abinadi responded, "I will **not recall my words, for they are true.** I allowed you to capture me so you will know for sure my words are true. If necessary, I will die, but no matter what happens to me, my words will **stand as a testimony against you!**

If you kill me, you will shed innocent blood, and this will **also stand as a testimony against you** at the last day."

These words were so powerful to King Noah, he became **afraid** of God's judgments, and he was about to let Abinadi go. But the priests objected, accusing Abinadi, exclaiming,

"He has reviled the king!"

Then Noah **became angry again** and delivered Abinadi to the priests.



The priests took Abinadi, tied him, and burned him with dried wood. When the

flames began to scorch him, Abinadi cried out, "Your children will burn others who believe in the salvation of the Lord their God. And you will be afflicted with all types of diseases because of your sinfulness.

You will be killed and scattered like a wild flock driven by wolves. **Your children will be hunted and captured** by your enemies, and finally suffer, as I do, the pains of death by fire. God will execute vengeance upon those who destroy His people. Oh God, receive my soul."

Note: Abinadi's prophecies of the priests' descendants being hunted and killed by fire was fulfilled. (see [Alma 25:3-8](#))

After saying this, Abinadi fell, having suffered death by fire. He was murdered because he would not deny God's commandments, and he sealed the truth of his words by his death.

***Alma teaches outside the city
See Mosiah, Chapter 18***

Alma, who had repented of his sins, went secretly among the people, teaching Abinadi's words.

Many believed as he taught of the resurrection and redemption that would come through the power, suffering and death of Christ, who would be resurrected, and then go up into heaven.

Alma taught in private so King Noah would not discover him.

The people who believed Alma met in a place called Mormon, named by King Noah. This was a place outside the city

where many wild animals came during certain times of the year.

In this place, Alma lived near a pure spring. During the day he hid in a small thicket of trees near the spring while the king's men searched for him. The believers came to this place to hear Alma speak.

After many days, all the believers, now a large group, had come to hear Alma. He preached repentance, redemption and faith in the Lord. He said,

"Here are the waters of Mormon. And here you have come to enter the fold of God. You desire to be called His people and are willing to bear one another's burdens, making them light.

You are willing to mourn with those who mourn, comfort those who need comfort, and stand as witnesses of God at all times, in all things, and in all places for the rest of your lives. You desire this so you may be redeemed by God and rise in the first resurrection to eternal life.

Since this is the desire of your hearts, do you have anything against being baptized in the name of the Lord, as a witness before Him that you have entered a covenant to serve Him and keep His commandments, that He may pour out His Spirit upon you even more?"

When the people heard this, they clapped their hands for joy, exclaiming, "This **is** the desire of our hearts!"



Then Alma went into the water with Helam, one of the first believers, and cried, "Oh Lord, pour out Thy Spirit upon Thy servant, that he may do this work with holiness of heart."

After saying this, the Lord's Spirit came upon Alma. He said, "Helam, having authority from the Almighty God, I baptize you as a testimony that you have entered a covenant to serve Him for the rest of your life.

May the Lord's Spirit be poured out upon you, and may God grant you eternal life through the redemption of Christ, whom He has prepared from the foundation of the world."

After saying this, both Alma and Helam went under the water. They arose and came out of the water rejoicing and filled with the Spirit. Then Alma

baptized another man, but this time he did not go under the water himself.

In the same way, Alma baptized everyone who had come, about 204 of them, and they were all filled with the grace of God.

From then on they were called the church of God, or the church of Christ. All who were baptized by the power and authority of God were added to His church.

Then Alma, having authority from God, ordained one priest for every fifty people in the church, to teach them of God's kingdom.

Alma commanded the priests to teach only what he had taught — things the holy prophets had spoken — repentance and faith in the Lord who would redeem His people.

Alma also commanded them not to argue, but to have one faith and one baptism, with their hearts knit together in unity and love for one another.

By preaching this way, Alma's people were taught, and they **became the children of God**. Alma commanded them to keep the Sabbath day holy and give thanks to the Lord their God each day. He also commanded the **priests** to work to support themselves.

One day a week was set apart for the people to gather and worship the Lord their God and to be taught. They also met at other times during the week when they could.

The priests did not depend on tothers for their support. As compensation for their service they received God's **grace**, which made them strong in Spirit and gave them a knowledge of God, enabling them to teach with power and authority from Him.

Alma commanded everyone in the church to give of their substance **according to what they had**. If some had more, they gave more, while the poor were to give less, and all were to give to those with nothing. They were taught to give by their own free will and good desires toward God.

They gave to the needy priests, who spent much of their time building the church, and also to anyone needing food or clothing. Alma said it was a commandment of God to give to one another, both temporally and spiritually, according to the **needs and wants** among them.



All this happened in the forest near the waters of Mormon, a beautiful place to those who there found their Redeemer. And how blessed they are, for they will sing His praise forever.

These things were done on the borders outside the land so that King Noah would not know of them. But the king discovered this movement and sent out his spy servants to find them. On the day Alma's people were gathered to be taught, they were discovered by the spies.

Upon hearing his servants' report, King Noah claimed Alma was stirring up the people to rebel against him, so he sent his army to destroy them.

Alma and the Lord's people (about 450 of them, including 204 newly baptized) were informed the king's army was coming, so they **took their tents and families** and escaped into the wilderness.

Noah's power collapses See Mosiah, Chapter 19

The king's army returned, having searched for the Lord's people in vain. Noah's army was small, and the rest of his people began to be divided among themselves.

The **minority** were those who **threatened the king**. Among them was Gideon, a strong man who hated the king. He drew his sword and vowed in his anger he would kill King Noah.

Gideon fought with Noah, and when Noah realized he could not beat Gideon, he **ran and climbed to the top of his tower** near the temple.

Note: Contrary to King Noah's depiction as a very obese man, as illustrated in Arnold Friberg's well-known painting, Noah was **most likely in good physical**



condition. He was able to first engage Gideon in a **vigorous sword fight**, then **run** from Gideon and **climb to the top of his**

tower without being overtaken. Moments later he climbed down his tower and **ran ahead of his people** into the wilderness.

Gideon chased Noah and was about to climb the tower to kill him, when from atop the tower, King Noah looked toward the land of Shemlon and saw an approaching Lamanite army.

He cried out in the anguish of his soul, "**Gideon, spare me, for the Lamanites are coming to kill my people!**"

Gideon knew King Noah was more concerned about his own life than his people, but he spared King Noah anyway.

Noah then commanded his people to run from the Lamanites. Then he ran ahead of his people into the wilderness.

As the Lamanites began to catch up with Noah's people and kill them, Noah commanded the men to leave their families behind and run with him. Many fathers disobeyed the king, preferring to die with their families rather than leave them behind. The rest of the fathers ran with Noah.



Note: A few years later in Zarahemla, the abandoned Nephite children of these fathers who ran with Noah disowned their fathers' names and named themselves "**Nephi, the children of Nephi.**"
(**Mosiah 25:13**)

The fathers who stayed with their wives and children had their fair daughters stand and plead with the Lamanites to not kill them. The Lamanites had compassion on the people, being

charmed by their beautiful women. But the Lamanites still captured them and forced them to return to the land of Nephi. They allowed them to keep their lands on these two conditions.

First, they had to bring King Noah to them.

Second, they had to pay an annual **50% tribute** to the Lamanite king . . . **half** of everything they owned, and **half** of what they would produce each year.

Among Noah's captured sons was Limhi. He didn't want his father to die, but being a just man himself, he knew his father had been very sinful.

Gideon sent spies into the wilderness to find King Noah and his followers. They found the men who had run away from

their families with the king, but they did not find the king and his priests.

The men who had gone with the king had sworn in their hearts they would return to the land of Nephi, and if their wives, children and men who had stayed behind had been killed, they would seek revenge, even if they had to die in the process.

Noah had commanded them not to return, but they had heard enough and put him to death by fire. They would have also killed his priests if they had not escaped.

Just as they were about to return to the land of Nephi, they met Gideon's spies, who told them their wives and children had been spared and the Lamanites had let them keep their land if they would pay a 50% tribute.

The men told Gideon's spies they had killed Noah, and that his priests had escaped into the wilderness.

After a peace ceremony with Gideon's men, they returned to the land of Nephi. They rejoiced because their wives and children had been spared, and they told Gideon they had killed the king.

Then the Lamanite king made an oath that his people would not kill them.

Because Limhi was the king's son, the kingdom was conferred upon him by the people. He made an oath to the Lamanite king his people would pay the 50% tribute. Then Limhi began to

establish his people's kingdom in peace.

The Lamanite king set guards around their land to keep Limhi's people from escaping into the wilderness. These guards were supported by part of the Nephite tribute.

King Limhi had peace in his kingdom for two years because the Lamanites were pacified by the tribute and did not hurt them.

*Noah's priest cause a war
See Mosiah, Chapter 20*



Now there was a place in Shemlon where the Lamanites' daughters gathered to sing, dance and make themselves merry. One day, a small number of them had gathered to sing and dance.

King Noah's priests had been hiding in the wilderness, **too ashamed and afraid for their lives to return** to their wives and children in the city of Nephi.

While wandering in the wilderness, they had discovered the Lamanites'

daughters and secretly watched them. When only 24 of them had gathered to dance, they came out of their hiding places and carried them off.

When the Lamanites found out their daughters were missing, they were angry with Limhi's people, thinking they had taken them. In his anger, the Lamanite king led his army to the land of Nephi to destroy Limhi's people.

From the top of his tower, Limhi saw them coming. He gathered his people, and they hid in the fields and forests, waiting for the Lamanites. When they came near, Limhi's people attacked the Lamanites and began to kill them.

The battle became fierce as the Nephites fought like lions for their prey. Though they were outnumbered by more than two to one, Limhi's people drove the Lamanites before them.

They fought like dragons for their own lives, and for their wives and children.

After the battle, they found the Lamanite king among the fallen, but he was not dead. His army had run away so fast, they had left him to die, wounded on the ground.

Limhi's men bandaged his wounds, brought him before Limhi, and said, "Here's the Lamanite king, wounded and abandoned by his army. Let's kill him!"

Limhi responded, "We will not kill him. Bring him closer, so I may see him."

Limhi then asked the bound Lamanite king, "Why did you come to war against my people? My people have not broken the oath I made to you, so why have you broken the oath you made with us?"

The king replied, "I broke the oath and came to war against your people because they carried away my people's daughters."

Limhi had heard nothing about this, so he said, "I will search among my people, and whoever has done this will die."

When Gideon, now the king's captain, heard this, he said to King Limhi, "Please do not search our people or



blame them.

Remember your father's priests, whom we searched for to destroy? It must be those priests, still in the wilderness, who stole the Lamanites' daughters!

Tell this to the Lamanite king so he will pacify his people toward us, for the Lamanites are now preparing to attack us, and we can't keep holding them off with our small numbers.

Unless the king pacifies his people, his great army will kill us all! You see, the Lord's words spoken by Abinadi are beginning to be fulfilled because we did not listen to him and repent.

Let's pacify the king and keep our oath with him, for it's better to be in bondage than die. Let's do this and put an end to so much bloodshed."

Limhi took Gideon's advice and told the king about his father's priests who had run away into the wilderness, who must have been the ones who stole their daughters.

Hearing this, the Lamanite king was pacified toward Limhi's people and said, "Let's go out and meet my people unarmed. I swear to you with an oath my people will not kill your people."

Then unarmed, Limhi's people followed the Lamanite king and went out to meet the Lamanites. Upon meeting them, the Lamanite king bowed himself down before them and pled in behalf of Limhi's people.

Upon seeing the unarmed Nephites, the Lamanites had compassion on them and were pacified. Then they returned with their king to their own land in peace. Limhi and his people returned to their city of Nephi and began to live in peace.

The bondage of Limhi's people Mosiah, Chapter 21

After many days, the Lamanites became angry with the Nephites again and surrounded their borders. The Lamanites did not dare kill the Nephites because of their king's oath to Limhi, but they exercised all the authority they could against them as cruel taskmasters. They slapped their faces, made them do hard labor and drove them like dumb mules.

The Lord allowed this as fulfillment of His word. The Nephites' suffering became great, and there was no way they could escape, for they were surrounded. Limhi's people began to complain to him, and they asked him if they could fight the Lamanites.

Because Limhi was constantly harassed by their complaining, he allowed them to do as they wished. Then they put on their armor and went out against the Lamanites to drive them out of their land. But the Lamanites beat them, drove them back, and **killed many of them**.

After this, there was great mourning and lamentation among Limhi's people. They mourned for their lost husbands, fathers and brothers. There were a great number of widows in the land, who cried much every day because they feared the Lamanites.

All this crying made the rest of Limhi's men very angry with the Lamanites. So they went out **again** to battle, but again they were **driven back**, suffering

another great loss. Then the men went out a **third time**, suffering **still more losses**. Those who survived returned to the city of Nephi.

Finally, they humbled themselves, even to the dust, accepting their yoke of bondage, allowing themselves to be beaten, driven and burdened by their enemies. They humbled themselves to the **depths of humility, crying mightily to God all day long to deliver them from their afflictions**.

And the Lord was **slow to hear their cries** because of their sins. But He **did hear** them and began to soften the hearts of the Lamanites to make their burdens easier. However, the Lord did not see fit to deliver them from bondage just yet.

And little by little, Limhi's people began to prosper in the land by raising more grain, flocks and herds, and they no longer suffered from hunger.

Because there were many more women than men, King Limhi commanded the men to give food to the widows and their children to prevent them from starving.

Limhi's people stayed in groups as much as possible in order to protect their grain and flocks. They feared the Lamanites, and King Limhi would not dare go outside the city walls without his guards. He told his people to constantly watch for those priests who were in the wilderness, who had stolen the Lamanites' daughters and had

caused the great destruction among his people.

Limhi and his people wanted to see those priests punished. Furthermore, those priests would sneak into the city of Nephi by night and steal grain and precious things.

It was after this time, when Limhi's people had quit fighting the Lamanites, that **Ammon and his 15 men came into their land**. When King Limhi saw them outside the city walls, he **thought** they were Noah's priests.

That's why Ammon and his men were tied and thrown in prison. If they had been Noah's priests, Limhi would have had them killed. When Limhi learned they were not Noah's priests, but fellow Nephites come from Zarahemla, he was very joyful.

Before Ammon's arrival, King Limhi had sent 43 men to search for the land of Zarahemla, but they could not find it, and they became lost in the wilderness.

Limhi's men did find a land once very populated, now covered with dry bones. They thought the place was Zarahemla and had returned just a few days before Ammon's expedition had arrived.

Limhi's 43 men had brought a record, engraved on **twenty-four gold plates**, that they had found in the land covered with bones.

Limhi was filled with joy again when Ammon told him that Mosiah had a gift from God to interpret such engravings.

Even though Ammon also rejoiced, he and his brethren were filled with sorrow because so many of their fellow Nephites had been killed.

They were sorry to hear that King Noah and his priests had caused the people to commit so many sins against God.

They mourned for the death of Abinadi and were sad that Alma and his people, who had formed a church of God, were no longer among them.

Ammon and his brethren mourned because they did not know where Alma and his people had gone. Alma's people would have gladly joined Limhi's, for they had made a covenant to serve God and keep His commandments.

Since Ammon had arrived, King Limhi and many of his people **also made this covenant with God**. They wanted to be baptized, but no one in the land had the authority from God to baptize. Ammon did not want to do the baptizing because he considered himself unworthy.

So at that time no church was formed, but the people **waited upon the Spirit of the Lord**. They wanted to become a church, like Alma's people, who had escaped into the wilderness. They wanted to be baptized as a witness and testimony that they were willing to serve God with all their hearts, **but they had to wait**. An account of their baptism will be given later.

Limhi's people escape to Zarahemla

See Mosiah, Chapter 22

Ammon, his 15 men, King Limhi and his people devoted all their thoughts and energy toward finding a way to deliver themselves out of bondage. After consulting with the people, Ammon and King Limhi called a meeting with everyone to decide on how to deliver themselves.

They concluded since there were too many Lamanites to fight, the only way to deliver themselves out of bondage would be to take their women, children, flocks, herds and tents, and **escape into the wilderness**.

Gideon said to the king, "Oh king, you have listened to my counsel many times as we have fought the Lamanites. If my advice has been useful to you in the past, listen to me now, and I will be your servant to deliver this people out of bondage."

King Limhi listened as Gideon explained his strategy for escape: "The Lamanites who guard the pass through the back wall of the city are drunk at night. So let us send a proclamation among all this people to drive their flocks and herds through that back pass and into the wilderness during the night.

I will go according to your command and pay the last tribute of wine to the Lamanites, and they will all get drunk. Then we will go through the secret pass on the left of their camp while they

sleep. By going around the land of Shilom, we will escape into the wilderness with our women, children, flocks and herds."

The king accepted Gideon's plan. He had his people gather their flocks, and then sent the regular tribute of wine to the Lamanites. He also sent more wine as a present to them. Happy to have the extra wine, they drank it freely and all became very drunk.

As the Lamanites fell asleep drunk, King Limhi's people, led by Ammon and his fifteen men, departed that night into the wilderness with their flocks and herds.

They went around the land of Shilom into the wilderness, bending their course toward the land of Zarahemla. They took all the gold, silver, precious things and provisions that they could carry.

After **traveling many days**, they finally arrived in the **land of Zarahemla**. There they were accepted, and joined Mosiah's people as his subjects. With joy, Mosiah received them and the records that their men had found.

Meanwhile, the Lamanites had awakened to find Limhi and his people gone, and had sent an army into the wilderness to capture them. But after two days, the Lamanites not only lost Limhi's trail, but also became lost themselves in the wilderness.

*Alma warns against
having a king
See Mosiah, Chapter 23*

Now, back to Alma. He had left the place called Mormon with his people after being warned by the Lord that Noah's army was coming after them. The **Lord gave them** the endurance to out march King Noah's army, which could not catch them.

They continued their exodus for **eight days** in the wilderness. Then Alma and his people came to a very beautiful and pleasant land, a land of **pure water**. They settled in this beautiful land, and worked very hard to farm it and construct buildings.

The people asked Alma to be their king because they loved him. But Alma said, "It's not necessary for us to have a king, for the Lord said,

'You will not put one man above another or allow one man to put himself above you.'

If it were **possible** for kings to always be just men, then it would be well for you to have a king. But remember the sinfulness of King Noah and his priests. I myself was caught in that snare, doing many things which were abominable in the sight of the Lord, which caused me sore repentance.

But after I had experienced great suffering, the Lord heard my cries and answered my prayers. He has made me an instrument in His hands to bring many of you to a knowledge of the

truth. But I do not glory in this, for I am not worthy to glory in myself.

You were oppressed by King Noah, in bondage to him and his priests.

Because of them, you were brought into sin.

And now that you have been delivered by God's power out of that condition, I want you to hold onto this liberty and remain free, trusting no man to be your king.

Also, trust no one to be your teacher or minister unless he is of God--walking in His ways and keeping His commandments."

Alma taught everyone to love their neighbors as themselves, and never to fight or argue with one another. He was their high priest, being the founder of their church.

No one received the authority to preach or teach unless it was given to him from God through Alma, who consecrated all the priests and teachers, and only just men were consecrated.

The priests and teachers watched over their people, and nourished them with things having to do with righteousness.

Alma and his people began to prosper greatly in the land, which they called Helam (named after the first man Alma baptized). As they populated and prospered in the land, they built the city of Helam.

Still, the Lord saw fit to **chastise His people** in Helam, and He truly **tested their patience and faith**.

But we will see that all who put their trust in the Lord are supported by Him, for the people of Helam were given trials and blessings by the Lord.

I Mormon will show you that they were brought into bondage, and no one but the Lord their God, even the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, could deliver them. And He did deliver them, showing His mighty power, after which they rejoiced greatly.



As Alma's people were farming the land of Helam near their city, a Lamanite army came into their borders. Terrified by the army, Alma's people ran from their fields and into the city.

Alma told them not to be afraid, but to remember that their God would deliver them. They calmed down and asked the Lord to soften the hearts of the Lamanites so they would spare them.

And the Lord softened the hearts of the Lamanites as Alma and his people went out and surrendered to them. Then the Lamanites took possession of the land of Helam.

This Lamanite army, which had followed King Limhi's people, had been lost in the wilderness for many days after losing the trail. But they had

found those priests of King Noah in a place they had called Amulon.

The priests had settled down with the Lamanite daughters they had stolen, and had begun to raise crops.

The leader of the priests was Amulon. He pled with the Lamanites, and also sent out his men's wives, the Lamanites' daughters, to plead with their people not to kill their husbands. Because of their wives, the Lamanites had compassion on Amulon and his men, and did not kill them.

Then Amulon and his men joined the Lamanites. The Lamanites were looking for the way back to the land of Nephi when they found Alma and his people in the land of Helam.

Now the Lamanites promised to spare Alma and his people and give them their liberty **if they would show them** how to get back to the land of Nephi.

But after Alma had shown them the way back to Nephi, the Lamanites **did not keep their promise**. Before returning to the land of Nephi, they set guards around the land of Helam to watch Alma's people.

The rest of the Lamanite army went back to the land of Nephi. Soon after that, part of the Lamanite army returned to Helam, bringing the guards' wives and children.

***Amulon becomes
A trial to Alma
See Mosiah, Chapter 24***

After the Lamanites had taken over all these lands, the Lamanite king appointed kings within them. Amulon gained favor in the eyes of the Lamanite king, who appointed him and his men to be teachers over the Lamanites in the lands of Shemlon, Shilom and Amulon.

In addition to being a teacher, **Amulon was made king** and ruler over Alma's people in Helam. However, Amulon was not allowed to do anything against the Lamanite king's will.

The Lamanite king, Laman, was named after his father, and he ruled over many people. Because King Laman had appointed Amulon and his men to be teachers in every Lamanite land, the Nephite language began to be taught among all the Lamanites.

The Lamanites were friendly with one another, but they knew nothing about God. Amulon and his men did not enlighten them by teaching them of the Lord, or about the law of Moses, or Abinadi's words. They only taught them **how to keep records and write letters**.

With this new writing skill, the Lamanites started a trading system among their cities. They grew richer and began to be cunning and wise as to the wisdom of the world. They delighted in all types of wickedness and plunder, except among their relatives.

Meanwhile, Amulon began to use authority over Alma and his people in the city of Helam. He persecuted Alma's people and encouraged his children to persecute their children.

Having been one of King Noah's priests, Amulon knew Alma. He remembered Alma had believed Abinadi and had been thrown out.

Amulon was angry with Alma because he was subject to King Laman himself. In his anger, Amulon exercised authority over Alma's

people and put taskmasters over them. Alma's people became **so afflicted** that they **cried mightily to God**.

Then Amulon ordered them to stop their cries. He put guards over them with orders to kill anyone found calling upon God. So Alma and his people stopped raising their voices to the Lord their God, but they still poured their hearts out to Him, and **God knew the thoughts of their hearts**.

Then the Lord's voice came to Alma's people in their afflictions,

"Lift up your heads and be comforted, for **I remember the covenant** you made with me. I will covenant with you, my people, and deliver you out of bondage.

I will also **ease the burdens** on your shoulders so you will not feel them in your bondage. I will do this so that you may **stand as witnesses for me** hereafter, knowing without a doubt



that **I, the Lord God, visit my people in their trials.**"

Then the **burdens** on Alma and his brethren were made **light**. The Lord strengthened them to bear their burdens **easily**, and with **patience** they cheerfully submitted to His will.

Their faith and patience was so great the Lord's voice came to them again saying,

"Be comforted, for tomorrow I will deliver you out of bondage."

And the Lord said to Alma

"You will lead this people, and I will go with you and deliver them out of bondage."

All that night, Alma and his people gathered their flocks and grain. And in the morning **the Lord caused a deep sleep** to come over the Lamanite taskmasters.

Then Alma and his people departed into the wilderness. After traveling all day, they pitched their tents **in a valley**. They called it the valley of Alma because he had led them there.

In that valley, they poured out their thanks to God for being merciful to them, for easing their burdens, and for delivering them out of bondage.

They knew that no one but the Lord their God could have delivered them. And every man, woman and child that could speak lifted up their voice in praises to their God.

Then the Lord said to Alma,

"Hurry and get this people out of this land, for the Lamanites have awakened and are pursuing you. I will stop them in this valley."

Then Alma and his people left the valley and continued their journey. After **12 days** in the wilderness, they arrived **in the land of Zarahemla**, and King Mosiah received them with joy.

Nephites reunite in Zarahemla *See Mosiah, Chapter 25*

After Alma's people arrived in Zarahemla, King Mosiah called a meeting of all the people, most of which were descendants of Mulek. Although many, the Nephites and the descendants of Mulek combined still were not even half the number of Lamanites.

The Nephites and the descendants of Mulek assembled into two groups to hear the readings from the records that had been kept.

Mosiah first had Zeniff's record read (the record kept by Zeniff and his grandson, Limhi).

Then Alma's account was read, beginning from his own conversion,



and ending when he and his people arrived in Zarahemla.

Mosiah's people who had stayed in Zarahemla were completely amazed after hearing these accounts. They didn't know what to think.

Seeing those who had been delivered out of bondage filled them with joy, yet thinking about their fellow Nephites who had been killed brought them to tears.

But when they realized the immediate goodness of God, and how He delivered Alma and his people out of Lamanite bondage, they raised their voices and gave thanks to Him.

And when they thought about their brethren, the Lamanites, and of their sinful and polluted state, they were filled with pain and anguish for the welfare of their souls.

The children of Amulon and those other wicked priests — the children who had been **abandoned** when their fathers had run away with King Noah, were so unhappy with the conduct of their fathers, they **rejected** their fathers' names and called themselves . . .

. . . *The Children of Nephi*

Note: These children should not be mistaken for Amulon and his priests' **second set** of children, borne by the stolen Lamanite daughters. The second set of children did **not escape** to Zarahemla with Alma. They were taught to **hate** Alma's people and their children. Abinadi prophesied they would cause others to suffer death by fire and then be scattered, hunted and killed.

Now all the people in Zarahemla, even the descendants of Mulek, were called Nephites, because beginning with Mosiah's grandfather, Mosiah, the kingdom had been conferred only upon a descendant of Nephi.

When Mosiah finished speaking, he asked Alma to speak.

The people divided into large groups, and Alma spoke to each group, preaching repentance and faith in the Lord. Alma called on Limhi's people, and all who had been delivered out of bondage, to remember it was the Lord who delivered them.

After Alma had taught the people many things, Limhi and all his people wanted to be baptized, so Alma went into the water and baptized them by immersion. Those whom he baptized then belonged to the church of God.

Then King Mosiah allowed Alma to establish churches throughout all the land of Zarahemla, giving him permission to ordain priests and teachers over each church.

There were too many people to be governed by one teacher, nor could they all hear the word of God in one assembly, so they gathered into different groups called churches. Every church had priests who taught according to Alma's words.

Even though there were many churches, **they were all one church** — the church of God, and nothing

but **repentance** and **faith in God** was preached in all the churches.

There were seven church groups in the land of Zarahemla, and all who wanted to take upon themselves the name of Christ, or of God, joined the church of God.

They were all called the people of God, and the Lord **poured out His Spirit** upon them, and they were blessed, and they prospered in the land.

*A new generation
of unbelievers*

See Mosiah, Chapter 26

As time passed, many of the rising generation did not believe their fathers' righteous traditions. At the time that their parents had experienced a mighty change of heart under King Benjamin's reign, they were too young to understand. They did **not believe** what had been said about the resurrection of the dead or about the coming of Christ.

Because of their **unbelief**, they could **not understand** God's word and their hearts became hardened. Because of their lack of faith, they refused to be baptized or to join the church. They remained in their carnal, sinful state, for they would not call upon the Lord their God.

During Mosiah's reign, the unbelievers were not half as numerous as God's people, but because of dissension among church members, the unbelievers soon became **more numerous**.

The unbelievers deceived many church members with flattery and caused them to commit many sins.

It soon became necessary to correct those people in the church who committed sin, and so they were brought before the priests by the teachers. The priests in turn brought them before Alma, the high priest.

King Mosiah had given Alma authority over the church. Alma did not know of these people's sins, but there were many witnesses against them. This kind of thing had never happened before in the church, and Alma's spirit was troubled.

He did not feel comfortable judging the accused, so he brought them before King Mosiah and said to him,

"Here are many who have been accused by their brethren, having been caught in various sins. The accused are not sorry, so we brought them here for you to judge."

King Mosiah replied, "I will not judge them. I prefer that you judge them, Alma."

Now Alma's spirit was even more troubled. He went and asked the Lord what to do, for he was afraid of doing something wrong in the sight of God. After pouring out his whole soul to God, the Lord's voice said to him,

"You are blessed, Alma, and those baptized in the waters of Mormon are also blessed. You are blessed because

of your great faith, having heard only the words of my servant Abinadi.

And those who were baptized are blessed because of their great faith in your words alone. You are also blessed because you have established a church among my people.

This people, who are willing to bear my name, are blessed, for in my name they will be called, and they are mine.

And because you have asked me about the transgressors, you are blessed. You are my servant, and I covenant with you, that you will have eternal life.

You will serve me, going forth in my name, gathering my sheep. Those who hear my voice will be my sheep. You will receive them into the church, and I will receive them also.

For this is my church, and I will freely forgive those whom you receive — those who will believe in my name and be baptized unto repentance. **I take the sins** of the world upon myself, **having created those who sin.**

And I will give a place at my right hand to those who believe in me throughout their lives. They are called by my name (Children of Christ). **If they know me**, at the **sound** of the **first trumpet** they will be **resurrected** and have a place eternally at my right hand.

When the second trumpet sounds, those who never knew me will be resurrected and stand before me. Then they will know I am the Lord their God — their

Redeemer, and know they did not desire redemption.

Then I will tell them I never knew them, and they will go into an everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.

This is why I tell you **not to receive** (baptize) **those who refuse to hear my voice into my church**, for I will not receive them at the last day.

Now go and judge all who transgress against me, according to the sins they have committed. If they confess their sins before you, and before me, and repent in the sincerity of their hearts, forgive them, and I will also forgive them.

And **as often as my people repent I will forgive** their trespasses against me. You will also forgive one another, because anyone who **will not forgive** his neighbor when his neighbor says he has repented brings himself under **condemnation**.

Note: Wherefore, I say unto you, that ye ought to forgive one another; for **he who will not forgive** his brother his trespasses stands condemned before the Lord; for there remains in him **the greater sin**. --- **D&C 64:9**

Now go, and those who refuse to repent of their sins will not be numbered among my people. Observe this law from this time forward."

Upon hearing these words, Alma wrote them down so he could judge the people of the church according to God's commandments. Then he judged those

who had been found committing sin according to the word of the Lord.

Those who repented of their sins and confessed them were numbered among the people of the church. Those who would not confess and repent of their sins were not numbered among the people of the church.

Alma regulated all the affairs of the church, and the Nephites began to again have peace. The church **prospered** as the people walked in obedience before God, and they received and baptized many.

Alma and the other priests and teachers were diligent in teaching God's word to the people of the church. They suffered all types of afflictions at the hands of all who did not belong to God's church.

Those who committed sins were counseled with God's word, and they were all commanded by God to always **pray and give thanks** to Him in **all things**.

***Unbelievers persecute believers
See Mosiah, Chapter 27***

But the persecution of the people of the church by the unbelievers became so great that the church members began to lose faith and began to complain to their leaders. Their leaders complained to Alma, who laid the case before King Mosiah.

After Mosiah consulted with his priests, he sent a proclamation throughout the land, stating unbelievers

could not persecute those who belonged to God's church.

There was also a strict command throughout all the churches that there would be no persecutions among them. They were told to treat all people equally.

No **pride or haughtiness** was to disturb their peace, and everyone was to love his neighbor as himself, working with his own hands for his support.

The priests and teachers were also commanded to work with their own hands for their own support, unless they were sick or in great need. By doing this, the Nephites enjoyed God's grace.

Peace was restored, and the people became very numerous, spreading out over the land in all directions, building large cities and villages. As the Lord **visited and prospered** them, they became a numerous and wealthy people.

However, King Mosiah's own sons were among the unbelievers. One of Alma's sons, Alma, was also an unbeliever. He became a very wicked and idolatrous man. He was a man of many words, and he used much flattery to lead many people after his sinful ways.

Alma's son became a great obstacle to the growth of God's church, for he led away people's hearts and caused many to leave the church, giving God's



enemy a chance to exercise power over them.

One day, Alma's son Alma and Mosiah's sons were secretly going about to destroy God's church — to lead the Lord's people astray, contrary to the commandments of God and of the king.

As they were going about, an angel of the Lord appeared to them. The angel came down as if in a cloud, and **he spoke with a voice of thunder**, causing the earth to shake beneath them.

Alma and Mosiah's sons were so astonished they fell down and **did not hear** what the angel was saying.

But the angel cried out again,

"Alma, arise and face me! Why do you persecute God's church? The Lord has said,

'This is my church, and I will establish it. Nothing will overthrow it except the transgression of my people.'

The Lord has heard the prayers of His people, including His servant, Alma, your father, who has prayed with great faith that you would come to know the truth.

I have come to convince you of God's power and authority so the prayers of His servants will be answered according to their faith.

And now, can you deny God's power? For does not my voice shake the earth? Can you not see me before you? And I am sent from God!

Now I say to you, remember the captivity of your fathers in the land of Helam, and in the land of Nephi. Remember the great things God did for them, for they were in bondage, and He delivered them.

Now, Alma, go your way, and stop trying to destroy the church . . . that the **prayers for the salvation of your soul** may be answered, in spite of your rebellion."

After saying this to Alma, the angel left. Alma and Mosiah's sons were so astonished they fell down again. They had seen an angel of the Lord with their own eyes! His voice had been like thunder, shaking the earth!

They knew nothing but God's power could have caused the earth to quake as if it were about to split open.

Alma was too astonished to speak. He became so weak he could not speak or even move his hands. He was so helpless that Mosiah's sons carried him



to his father, Alma, and told him everything that had happened.

Upon hearing this, Alma's father rejoiced, knowing it had been done by God's power. Alma had a large crowd come see what the Lord had done for his son, and also for Mosiah's sons.

Alma's father then called priests together, to fast and pray to the Lord, asking Him to restore Alma's speech and strength — that the eyes of the people would be opened to **see and know** of God's goodness and glory.

After the priests had fasted and prayed for two days and nights, Alma stood up and began to speak, telling them to be comforted. He said,

"I have **repented** of my sins, and I have been **redeemed** by the Lord. I have been **born** of His Spirit! The Lord said to me,

*'Do not wonder that all people in all nations must be born of God again. **They must be changed** from their carnal and fallen state to a state of righteousness — being redeemed by God — becoming His sons and daughters. All must become new*

creatures, and unless they do this, they cannot inherit God's kingdom.'

Unless we change, we must be **cast off** from God's presence.

I know this because I was about to be cast off. But after suffering much while unconscious, repenting, close to death, the Lord in His mercy saw fit to **snatch me out** of an everlasting burning, and I am now born of God!

My soul has been **redeemed** from bitter pain and compulsive sin. I was in the darkest pit, but now I behold God's marvelous light. While my soul was being racked with eternal torment, I was **snatched away** and **my soul is now free from pain!**

I had rejected my Redeemer, denying our forefathers' words, but now I know our Redeemer will **show Himself to all**, so that all may **look forward** to His coming.

I know He remembers **each** person He has created, for at the last day, **every person** will be resurrected and then stand before Him to be judged. We will **all** kneel and confess He is God.



Those who **rejected God** in the world will confess that their judgment of an **everlasting** punishment is just. They will quake, tremble and cower when He sees them **in** all their wickedness."

From that day forward, Alma and Mosiah's sons began to teach the people as they traveled throughout the land, telling of what they had seen and heard. They preached God's word in much tribulation, for they were greatly persecuted and even beaten by unbelievers.

But in spite of their suffering, they **patiently consoled the church**, confirming their faith, encouraging them with great patience to keep God's commandments.

Mosiah's four sons, who taught with Alma, were **Ammon, Aaron, Omner** and **Himni**. They traveled throughout the land of Zarahemla among all the people of King Mosiah. They zealously did everything they could to repair the damage they had done to the church. They constantly confessed their sins

and declared everything they had seen. They **explained the prophecies** and the **scriptures** to all who wanted to hear.

By doing these things, they were instruments in God's hands, bringing **many** to **know** of their **Redeemer**. And how blessed they are for publishing peace and good news, for declaring to people **the Lord reigns!**

*Alma and Mosiah's sons preach
See Mosiah, Chapter 28*

After King Mosiah's four sons had preached in the land of Zarahemla, they returned to their father. After selecting some men, they asked their father if they and those whom they had selected could go to the **land of Nephi** to preach God's word to the Lamanites.

They were hoping to bring the knowledge of the Lord to the Lamanites — to convince them of their false traditions and to end their hatred of Nephites.

Mosiah's sons explained to their father, "If the Lamanites knew the truth, they would rejoice in the Lord their God. They would become friendly with the Nephites, and there would be no more fighting in all the land the Lord has given us."

Mosiah's sons wanted salvation to be declared to everyone, for even the thought of any soul **enduring endless torment** made them tremble. This is how the Spirit of the Lord worked in

them, for they had been the worst sinners of all.

The Lord had spared them because of His infinite mercy. But they still suffered great anguish of soul because of their sins, fearing they would be cast off forever. They begged their father over a period of many days for permission to go to the land of Nephi. King Mosiah finally asked the Lord if he should let his sons go among the Lamanites to preach the word. The Lord answered Mosiah,

"Give them permission to go and preach, for many will believe them and gain eternal life. I will deliver your sons out of the hands of the Lamanites."

Then Mosiah granted his sons permission to go preach to the Lamanites, and they did.

I, Mormon will give an account of Mosiah's sons **later**.

After his sons had left, King Mosiah had no one to confer the kingdom upon, for none of his sons would accept it. So he gathered the brass plates, Nephi's large and small plates, the sacred things to be preserved according to God's commandments (Liahona, Laban's sword, and the interpreters), and his translation from the 24 pure gold plates Limhi had brought him.

Mosiah had translated the plates because his people were very anxious to know about those people whose bones were scattered over the land. He



had translated the 24 plates using two stones fastened to two rims of a bow. These interpreters were prepared from the beginning of the world, and had been handed down from generation to generation for the purpose of interpreting languages. They had been preserved by the Lord so He could **reveal the sins** of His people to all who would possess this land.

And whoever has these interpreters is called a **seer** (one who sees), like those of ancient times.

Mosiah's translation of the 24 plates gave an account that began from the creation of Adam and Eve. It continued through the time when the people at Babel built a great tower --when the Lord confused their language and scattered them over all the earth.

The account continued to the time when the people who had migrated to this continent from Babel had completely destroyed one another.



The record of this great destruction filled Mosiah's people with sorrow, but it also gave them much knowledge, for which they were thankful. The record of these people will be **written later**.

Note: Although Mormon said he would write this record later, he was killed before he could do it. Therefore his son Moroni wrote the record of the destruction of "these people" ([Ether 13:15-22](#))

It's very important for all people to know the details of this destruction.

After King Mosiah translated the 24 plates, he took the brass plates, all the records and sacred things, and conferred them upon Alma's son Alma.

Then Mosiah commanded Alma to preserve everything, and also to keep his own record of the people, handing everything down from one generation to another, just as they had been handed

down from the time Lehi had left Jerusalem.

***Mosiah ends the reign
Kings in the land
See Mosiah, Chapter 29***

After doing this, Mosiah sent messengers among all his people to ask who they wanted to be their next king. The people wanted Mosiah's son, Aaron, to be their king and ruler. Since Aaron had gone to the land of Nephi, the kingdom could not be conferred upon him. Besides, he and his brothers had already refused the kingdom.

So King Mosiah sent a written message to his people which said,

"My brethren (for I think of you as brethren), I call upon you to consider something other than having a king. Aaron, to whom the kingdom rightly belongs, has declined to take it upon himself.

Now if someone else is appointed in his stead, I am afraid that some of you would argue about it. And who knows whether or not my son, to whom the kingdom rightly belongs, would angrily return to split this people — some for him, and others against him. This would cause great bloodshed among you, for it would be against the ways of the Lord, and many souls would be lost.



So let us be wise and consider something else, for we have no right to destroy my son or anyone else who may be appointed in his place. If my son turned back to his pride and vanity, recalling what he had said, and claimed his right to the kingdom, then he and all this people would commit many sins. Let us look ahead and do what will keep the peace of this people.

I will be your king the rest of my life, but let us now appoint judges to take my place when I die, to judge this people according to our law. Together we will create a new way to govern, appointing wise men to judge this people according to God's commandments.

Isn't it better to allow God, rather than men, to rule over and judge us? For

God's judgments are always just, but man's judgements are not.

If it were possible for you to **always have just men to be your kings** — men who established God's laws and judged this people according to His

laws, like my father King Benjamin did, **then it would be good to always have kings.**

I have taught God's commandments to you as well as I possibly could in order to establish peace throughout the land, and to put an end to wars, stealing, plunder, murder and all types of sins. I have punished those who have sinned according to the law given to us by our forefathers.

Because not all leaders are just, it is not necessary for you to have a king, for one wicked king can be the cause of great sinfulness and destruction.

Always remember King Noah and his wicked people, and the great destruction and bondage that resulted from their sinfulness. If their all-wise Creator had not intervened after they had sincerely repented, they would still be in bondage today!

He delivered them because they humbled themselves before Him. Because they cried mightily to Him, He delivered them out of bondage. In all cases, this is how the Lord works with His power among His children. He always extends His arm of mercy to those who put their trust in Him.

You cannot dethrone an evil king without much bloodshed, for evil kings put their sinful friends in power and surround themselves with guards. They tear up the righteous laws of those who have reigned before them and trample God's commandments.

Evil kings invent their own corrupt laws and then kill those who disobey them by sending armies to put down rebellions.

Unrighteous kings corrupt the **righteous principles** of governing.

It is not good for such sinfulness to come upon you. So choose judges by your vote, that you may be judged according to the correct laws the Lord gave our forefathers.

It is more common for the minority, not the majority, to want what is wrong. So make it your law to always do your business by majority vote.

If the time comes when the **majority** of the people choose **sinfulness**, that is when **God's judgments will** come upon upon them. That is when He will visit them with **great destruction**, as He has done **before** in this land.

If one of your judges does not judge you according to the law, then have him brought to a higher judge.

If your higher judge does not judge righteously, then have a small number of your lower judges meet together and judge the higher judge, according to the voice of the people.

I command you to do these things in the **fear of the Lord**. I command you to have no king, for from now on, you will **have to answer to judges for your own sins.**

Until now, the sins of many people have been caused by the wickedness of their kings, **who have had to answer**

for the sins of their people. This inequality should end in this land, especially among you my people.

This land should be a land of liberty, where all people enjoy their rights and privileges equally, as long as the Lord sees fit for our descendants to remain upon this land."

King Mosiah **wrote many other things** to his people, explaining the **burden upon the soul of a righteous king** on behalf of his people — of having to **bear their lack of faith, their complaints and their sins.** Mosiah told them it should not have to be this way, but that the **burden should be upon each individual.**

Mosiah explained all the disadvantages of laboring under an unrighteous king. He told his people the sins under an unrighteous king, such as wars, stealing, plunder, immorality, and too many others to mention, are expressly repugnant to God's commandments.

After King Mosiah sent his written word to the people, they **were all convinced** what he had written was true. They gave up their desire to have a king and became very eager to have equality throughout the land.

Mosiah's people were willing to **answer** for their **own** sins. They voted for their judges, according to the law, and rejoiced in their God given liberty.

They loved Mosiah very much, and they esteemed him more than any other man. They never saw him as a corrupt,

greedy tyrant, for he had not taxed them, nor had he delighted in war. He had established peace in the land, granting liberty to all.

The people **appointed judges**, according to the law, throughout **all** the land. Alma's son Alma was appointed as the first **chief judge**. He was also the high priest, for his father had conferred that office upon him, giving him charge of all church affairs.

Like his father, Alma walked in the ways of the Lord, obeying His commands. He judged righteously during a period of continual peace.

This was the beginning of the **reign of the judges** among the Nephites throughout the land of Zarahemla.

At age 82, Alma's father Alma, the founder of their church, died, having lived to fulfill God's commands.

In 91 BC, at age 63 Mosiah died, having reigned for 33 years. He was the last of the Nephite kings who had reigned for more than 450 years.