

BROTHER RIVERA - BYU RELA 122 ~ LESSON 5

NEPHITE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR ~ ALMA 43

PREFACE TO WAR

- 18th Year of reign of the Judges - vs. 3
- Zoromites ally with the Lamanites, they join forces, and become Lamanites - vs. 4
- Lamanite army in the thousands - vs. 5
- Nephites prepare for war with them
- Nephites gather to defend Jershon, where the poor Zoramites now live



HOW DISCIPLES OF CHRIST LIVE IN WAR

PRESIDENT EZRA TAFT BENSON

“From the Book of Mormon we learn how disciples of Christ live in times of war. From the Book of Mormon we see the evils of secret combinations portrayed in graphic and chilling reality. In the Book of Mormon we find lessons for dealing with persecution and apostasy. We learn much about how to do missionary work. And more than anywhere else, we see in the Book of Mormon the dangers of materialism and setting our hearts on the things of the world. Can anyone doubt that this book was meant for us and that in it we find great power, great comfort, and great protection?” (Pres. Ezra T. Benson, November 1986 general conference)

ZERAHEMNAH ~ LAMANITE LEADER

- Zerahemnah - Zoramite General of Lamanite Army - vs. 5
- Places Amalekite chief captains over Zoramite forces - vs. 6
- Amalekites are dissented Nephite warriors
 - Still followed violent traditions of Amulon, Nehor, & Amlici (Mosiah 23, Alma 2, 21)
- Amalekite warriors hated the Nephites more than the Lamanites did - vs. 7



ZARAHEMNAH'S WAR PLAN

- To preserve hatred toward Nephites - vs. 7
- To force the Nephites to submit
- To stir the Lamanites to anger against the Nephites - vs. 8
- To usurp great power over them
- To bring the Nephites into bondage



NEPHITE WAR PLAN

- To support their lands and families - vs. 9
- To preserve them from enemies
- To preserve their rights, privileges, liberty
- To continue to worship their God in spirit and truth
- To protect the people of Ammon, the Anti-Nephi-Lehi who supplied the Nephite army - vs. 12 - 13



BOOK OF MORMON WRITTEN FOR US

ELDER L. TOM PERRY

Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained that the Book of Mormon was written for our day: “The major writers of the Book of Mormon fully understood that their writings were primarily for the people of a future generation rather than for the people of their own generation. Moroni wrote to our generation, ‘I speak unto you as if ye were present’ (Mormon 8:35)” (in Conference Report, Oct. 2005, 5; or Ensign, Nov. 2005, 6–7).

“And it came to pass as the armies of the Lamanites had gathered together in the land of Antionum, behold, the armies of the Nephites were prepared to meet them in the land of Jershon.”

—ALMA 43:15

CHIEF CAPTAIN MORONI

- Commander of all the Nephite armies - vs. 16
- Only 25 years old - vs. 17
- He was a strong and mighty man
- He had perfect understanding and was highly intelligent
- He did not delight in bloodshed
- His soul did joy in the liberty and freedom of his country
- He did labor exceedingly for the welfare and safety of his people
- He was firm in the faith of Christ
- He swore an oath to defend his people, his rights, his country, and his religion, even to the loss of his blood - Alma 48:11-13



THE FIRST BATTLE OF THE WAR

- The Nephites were prepared:
- They had a brave, righteous leader
- They were armed with weapons - vs. 18 - 19
- They had protective armor and shields - and the Armor of God
- They were prepared to defend their families, land, rights, and religion



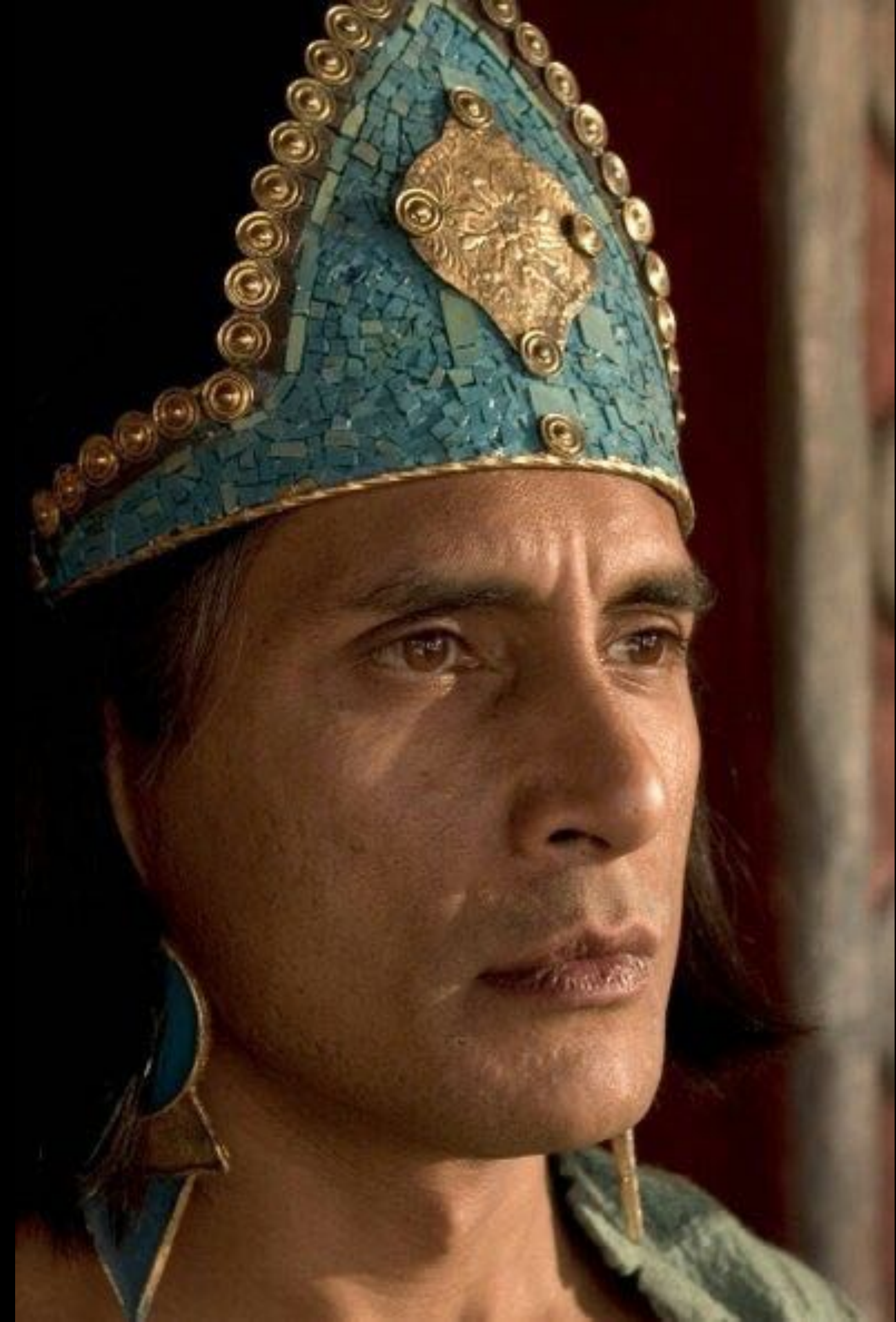
LAMANITE ARMY NOT PREPARED

- They only had weapons - vs. 20
- They had no armor like the Nephites
- They had no shields to protect
- They were exceedingly afraid - vs. 21
- They didn't even fight and retreated - vs. 22



CAPTAIN MORONI'S SECRET WEAPONS

- He sent spies to spy on the Lamanite camp - vs. 23
- He sent messengers to Alma, the Prophet
- The Lord revealed to Alma the Lamanite plans - vs. 24
- Thus they were prepared



MORONI DEFENSE STRATEGY

- Captain Moroni teaches us a Defense Strategy that works:
- Preparations for Defense
- Intelligence and watching the enemy
- Faith and Trust in God
- Purpose worthy to defend
- A Winning Strategy, regardless of the size of the enemy!



WHAT LESSONS CAN I LEARN?

PRESIDENT EZRA TAFT BENSON

Speaking of our need to apply the Book of Mormon in our lives, President Ezra Taft Benson declared: “If they saw our day and chose those things which would be of greatest worth to us, is not that how we should study the Book of Mormon? We should constantly ask ourselves, ‘Why did the Lord inspire Mormon (or Moroni or Alma) to include that in his record? What lesson can I learn from that to help me live in this day and age?’” (in Conference Report, Oct. 1986, 5; or Ensign, Nov. 1986, 6).