

- 10 Now if a man desired to serve God, it was his privilege,  
or rather if he believed in God, it was his privilege  
to serve Him,  
But if he did not believe in Him, there was no law  
to punish him;
- 11 But if he murdered, he was punished unto death,  
And if he robbed, he was also punished,  
And if he stole, he was also punished,  
And if he committed adultery, he was also punished;  
Yea, for all this wickedness they were punished,  
for there was a law that men should be judged  
according to their crimes;
- 12 Nevertheless, there was no law against a man's belief,  
Therefore, a man was punished only for the crimes  
which he had done,  
Therefore, all men were on equal grounds.
- 13 And this antichrist whose name was Korihor—and the law  
could have no hold upon him—and he began to preach  
unto the people that there should be no Christ;
- 14 And after this manner did he preach, saying:  
“O ye that are bound down under a foolish  
and a vain hope,  
Why do ye yoke yourselves with such foolish things?  
Why do ye look for a Christ?  
For no man can know of anything which is to come.
- 15 “Behold, these things which ye call prophecies,  
which ye say are handed down by holy prophets,  
Behold, they are foolish traditions of your fathers;  
How do ye know of their surety?
- 16 Behold, ye cannot know of things which ye do not see,  
Therefore, ye cannot know that there shall be a Christ.
- 17 “Ye look forward and say that ye see  
a remission of your sins;  
But behold, it is the effects of a frenzied mind,  
And this derangement of your minds comes because  
of the tradition of your fathers which lead you away  
into a belief of things which are not so.”
- 18 And many more such things did he say unto them,  
telling them that there could be no atonement made  
for the sins of men;  
But every man fared in this life, according to

the management of the creature,  
 Therefore, every man prospered, according to his genius,  
 And that every man conquered, according to his strength;  
 And whatsoever a man did was no crime.

- 19 And thus he did preach unto them, leading away  
 the hearts of many, causing them to lift up  
 their heads in their wickedness,  
 Yea, leading away many women, and also men,  
 to commit whoredoms, telling them that when  
 a man was dead, that was the end thereof.
- 20 Now this man went over to the Land of Jershon also  
 to preach these things among the people of Ammon,  
 which were once the people of the Lamanites;
- 21 But behold, they were more wise than many of the  
 Nephites, for they took him and bound him  
 and carried him before Ammon,  
 which was a high priest over that people;
- 22 And it came to pass that he caused that he  
 should be carried out of the land.
- 23 And it came to pass that he came over into the Land  
 of Gideon and began to preach unto them also;  
 And here he did not have much success, for he was taken  
 and bound and carried before the high priest,  
 and also the chief judge over the land.
- 24 And it came to pass that the high priest saith unto him:  
 “Why do ye go about perverting the ways of the Lord?  
 25 Why do ye teach this people that there shall be no Christ,  
 to interrupt their rejoicings?  
 26 Why do ye speak against all the prophecies  
 of the holy prophets?”
- 27 Now, the high priest’s name was Giddonah;  
 28 And Korihor saith unto him:  
 “Because I do not teach the foolish traditions  
 of your fathers,  
 And because I do not teach this people to bind themselves  
 down under the foolish ordinances and performances  
 which are laid down by ancient priests to usurp power  
 and authority over them,  
 To keep them in ignorance that they may not lift up their  
 heads, but be brought down according to thy words.

- 29 “Ye say that this people is a free people;  
Behold, I say they are in bondage.
- 30 “Ye say that those ancient prophecies are true;  
Behold, I say that ye do not know that they are true.
- 31 “Ye say that this people is a guilty and a fallen people  
because of the transgression of a parent;  
Behold, I say that a child is not guilty  
because of its parents.
- 32 “And ye also say that Christ shall come;  
But behold, I say that ye do not know  
that there shall be a Christ;
- 33 And ye say also that He shall be slain  
for the sins of the world.
- “And thus ye lead away this people after the  
foolish traditions of your fathers and  
according to your own desires.
- 34 “And ye keep them down, even as it were, in bondage,  
That ye may glut yourselves with the labors of their hands,  
That they durst not look up with boldness,  
And that they durst not enjoy their rights and privileges;
- 35 Yea, they durst not make use of that which is their own,  
lest they should offend their priests which do yoke them  
according to their desires,  
And hath brought them to believe—  
by their traditions,  
and their dreams,  
and their whims,  
and their visions,  
and their pretended mysteries—  
That they should—if they did not do according to  
their words—offend some Unknown Being,  
which they say is God,  
A Being which never hath been seen nor known,  
which never was nor never will be.”
- 36 Now when the high priest and the chief judge  
saw the hardness of his heart,  
Yea, when they saw that he would revile even against God,  
they would not make any reply to his words;
- 37 But they caused that he should be bound,  
And they delivered him up into the hands of the officers

and sent him to the Land of Zarahemla, that he might be brought before Alma and the chief judge which was governor over all the land.

38 And it came to pass that when he was brought before Alma and the chief judge, that he did go on in the same manner as he did in the Land of Gideon, Yea, he went on to blasphemy;

39 And he did rise up in great swelling words before Alma, And did revile against the priests and teachers, accusing them of leading away the people after the silly traditions of their fathers for the sake of glutting by the labors of the people.

40 Now Alma saith unto him:  
 “Thou knowest that we do not glut ourselves upon the labors of this people,  
 For behold, I have labored, even from the commencement of the reign of the judges until now, with mine own hands for my support;  
 Notwithstanding my many travels round about the land to declare the word of God unto my people,

41 And notwithstanding the many labors which I have performed in the church, I have never received so much as even one <sup>a</sup>senine for my labor,  
 Neither hath any of my brethren,  
<sup>b</sup>save it were in the judgment seat,  
 And then we have received only according to law for our time.

a A 8:52-59

b A 8:48, 52

42 “And now, if we do not receive anything for our labors in the church, what doth it profit us to labor in the church, save it were to declare the truth that we may have rejoicings in the joy of our brethren?

43 Then why sayest thou that we preach unto this people to get gain when thou of thyself knowest that we receive no gain?

44 “And now, believest thou that we deceive this people that causeth such joy in their hearts?”

45 And Korihor answered him:  
 “Yea.”

46 And then Alma saith unto him:

“Believest thou that there is a God?”

And he answered:

“Nay.”

- 47 Now Alma saith unto him:  
 “If ye deny again that there is a God,  
 and also deny the Christ—  
 For behold, I say unto you, I know there is a God,  
 and also that Christ shall come—
- 48 And now what evidence have ye that there is no God,  
 or that Christ cometh not?  
 I say unto you that ye have none,  
 save it be your word only;
- 49 But behold, I have all things as a testimony  
 that these things are true,  
 And ye also have all things as a testimony unto you  
 that they are true;  
 And will ye deny them?
- 50 “Believest thou that these things are true?  
 51 Behold, I know that thou believest,  
 But thou art possessed with a lying spirit;  
 And ye have put off the Spirit of God,  
 that it may have no place in you,  
 But the devil hath power over you;  
 And he doth carry you about, working devices  
 that he may <sup>a</sup>destroy the people of God.”
- 52 And now Korihor saith unto Alma:  
 “If thou wilt show me a <sup>b</sup>sign that I may be  
 convinced that there is a God,  
 Yea, show unto me that He hath power,  
 And then will I be convinced of the truth of thy words.”
- 53 But Alma saith unto him:  
 “Thou hast had signs enough;  
 Will ye tempt your God?  
 Will ye say, ‘Show unto me a sign,’ when ye have  
 the testimony of all these thy brethren,  
 and also all the holy prophets?
- 54 “The scriptures are laid before thee, yea,  
 and <sup>c</sup>all things denote there is a God—  
 Yea, even the earth and all things that are  
 upon the face of it, yea, and its <sup>d</sup>motion,

a A 9:1

b Jac 5:22

c Gen 6:66  
 (IV only)  
 Ps 19:1-4  
 Rom 1:18-20  
 d H 4:61-62

- 55 Yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form doth witness that there is a Supreme Creator; And yet do ye go about leading away the hearts of this people, testifying unto them there is no God? And yet will ye deny against all these witnesses?”
- 56 And he said:  
“Yea, I will deny except ye shall show me a sign.”
- 57 And now it came to pass that Alma said unto him:  
“Behold, I am grieved because of the hardness of your heart,  
Yea, that ye will still resist the Spirit of the truth that thy soul may be destroyed;
- 58 But behold, it is better that thy soul should be lost than that thou shouldst be the means of bringing many souls down to destruction by thy lying and by thy flattering words;
- 59 Therefore, if thou shalt deny again,  
Behold, God shall smite thee,  
that thou shalt become dumb,  
that thou shalt never open thy mouth anymore,  
that thou shalt not deceive this people anymore.”
- 60 Now Korihor saith unto him:  
“I do not deny the existence of a God,  
but I do not believe that there is a God;  
And I say also that ye do not know that there is a God,  
And except ye show me a sign, I will not believe.”
- 61 Now Alma saith unto him:  
“This will I give unto thee for a sign—that thou shalt be struck dumb according to my words;  
And I say that in the name of God that ye shall be struck dumb, that ye shall no more have utterance.”
- 62 Now when Alma had said these words, Korihor was struck dumb, that he could not have utterance according to the words of Alma.
- 63 And now when the chief judge saw this, he put forth his hand and wrote unto Korihor, saying:  
“Art thou convinced of the power of a God?”
- 64 In whom did ye desire that Alma should show forth  
His sign?  
Would ye that He should afflict others

- to show unto thee a sign?  
65 Now behold, He hath showed unto you a sign,  
And now, will ye dispute more?”
- 66 And Korihor put forth his hand and wrote, saying:  
“I know that I am dumb, for I cannot speak;  
And I know that nothing, save it were the power of God,  
could bring this upon me,  
Yea, and I always knew that there was a God.
- 67 “But behold, the devil hath deceived me,  
For he appeared unto me in the form of an angel  
and said unto me, ‘Go and reclaim this people,  
for they have all gone astray after an Unknown God’;  
68 And he saith unto me, ‘There is no God,’  
Yea, and he taught me that which I should say  
and I have taught his words;  
And I taught them because they were pleasing  
unto the carnal mind;  
69 And I taught them even until I had much success,  
insomuch that I verily believed that they were true;  
And for this cause I withstood the truth, even until  
I have brought this great curse upon me.”
- 70 Now when he had said this, he besought that Alma should  
pray unto God that the curse might be taken from him;  
71 But Alma said unto him:  
“If this curse should be taken from thee, thou wouldst  
again lead away the hearts of this people,  
Therefore, it shall be unto thee even as the Lord will.”
- 72 And it came to pass that the curse  
was not taken off of Korihor,  
But he was cast out and went about  
from house to house a begging for his food.
- 73 Now the knowledge of what had happened unto Korihor  
was immediately published throughout all the land,  
Yea, the proclamation was sent forth by the chief judge to  
all the people in the land, declaring unto those who had  
believed in the words of Korihor that they must speedily  
repent lest the same judgments would come unto them.
- 74 And it came to pass that they were all convinced  
of the wickedness of Korihor, therefore they  
were all converted again unto the Lord;

- And this put an end to the iniquity  
after the manner of Korihor;
- 75 And Korihor did go about from house to house  
a begging food for his support.
- 76 And it came to pass that as he went forth  
among the people—  
Yea, among a people which had separated themselves  
from the Nephites and called themselves Zoramites,  
being led by a man whose name was Zoram—  
And as he went forth amongst them, behold, he was  
run upon and trodden down, even until he was dead.
- 77 And thus we see the end of him  
who perverteth the ways of the Lord.
- And thus we see that the devil will not support  
his children at the last day, but doth speedily  
drag them down to hell.
- 78 Now it came to pass that after the end of Korihor,  
Alma having received tidings that the Zoramites  
were perverting the ways of the Lord and that Zoram,  
which was their leader, was leading the hearts  
of the people to bow down to dumb idols, etc.,  
His heart again began to sicken  
because of the iniquity of the people;
- 79 For it was the cause of great sorrow to Alma  
to know of the iniquity among his people,  
Therefore, his heart was exceeding sorrowful because of  
the separation of the Zoramites from the Nephites.
- 80 Now the Zoramites had gathered themselves together  
in a land which they called Antionum,  
Which was east of the Land of Zarahemla,  
Which lay nearly bordering upon the seashore,  
Which was south of the Land Jershon,  
Which also bordered upon the Wilderness South,  
which wilderness was full of the Lamanites.
- 81 Now the Nephites greatly feared that the Zoramites  
would enter into a correspondence with the Lamanites  
and that it would be the means of great loss  
on the part of the Nephites.
- 82 And now, as the preaching of the word had had a greater

tendency to lead the people to do that which was just,  
 Yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds  
 of the people than the sword or anything else  
 which had happened unto them,  
 Therefore, Alma thought it was expedient that they  
 should try the virtue of the word of God.

- 83 Therefore, he took Ammon and Aaron and Omner—  
 and Himni he did leave in the church in Zarahemla,  
 but the former three he took with him—and also  
 Amulek and Zeezrom which were at Melek,  
 And he also took two of his sons;
- 84 Now the eldest of his sons he took not with him—and his  
 name was Helaman—but the names of those which  
 he took with him were Shiblon and Coreanton;  
 And these are the names of those which went with him  
 among the Zoramites to preach unto them the word.
- 85 Now the Zoramites were dissenters from the Nephites,  
 therefore they had had the word of God  
<sup>a</sup>preached unto them;
- 86 But they had fallen into great errors, for they would not  
 observe to keep the commandments of God and  
 His statutes according to the law of Moses,
- 87 Neither would they observe the performances of the church  
 to continue in prayer and supplication to God daily,  
 that they might not enter into temptation,  
 Yea, in fine, they did pervert the ways of the Lord  
 in very many instances;  
 Therefore, for this cause Alma and his brethren  
 went into the land to preach the word unto them.
- 88 Now when they had come into the land,  
 Behold, to their astonishment, they found  
 that the Zoramites had built synagogues,  
 And that they did gather themselves together on one day  
 of the week, which day they did call the day of the Lord;
- 89 And they did worship after a manner which Alma  
 and his brethren had never beheld,  
 For they had a place built up in the center of their  
 synagogue—a place of standing  
 which was high above the head,  
 And the top thereof would only admit one person;
- 90 Therefore, whosoever desired to worship must go forth  
 and stand upon the top thereof,

a A 11:24-25

And stretch forth his hands toward the heavens  
and cry with a loud voice, saying:

“Holy, Holy God!

We believe that Thou art God,  
And we believe that Thou art holy,  
and that Thou wast a Spirit,  
and that Thou art a Spirit,  
and that Thou wilt be a Spirit forever.

91 “Holy God, we believe that Thou hast  
separated us from our brethren;  
And we do not believe in the traditions of our brethren  
which was handed down to them  
by the childishness of their fathers,  
But we believe that Thou hast elected us  
to be Thy holy children;

92 And also, Thou hast made it known unto us  
that there shall be no Christ,  
But Thou art the same yesterday, today and forever;  
And Thou hast elected us that we shall be saved,  
whilst all around us are elected to be cast  
by Thy wrath down to hell,  
For the which holiness, O God, we thank Thee.

93 “And we also thank Thee that Thou hast elected us  
that we may not be led away after the foolish traditions  
of our brethren which doth bind them down to a belief  
of Christ, which doth lead their hearts to wander far  
from Thee our God;

94 And again, we thank Thee, O God, that we  
are a chosen and a holy people. Amen.”

95 Now it came to pass that after Alma and his brethren  
and his sons had heard these prayers,  
they were astonished beyond all measure,

96 For behold, every man did go forth  
and offer up these same prayers.

97 Now the place was called by them “Rameumptom,”  
which, being interpreted, is the “holy stand.”

98 Now from this stand they did offer up, every man,  
the selfsame prayer unto God,  
Thanking their God that they were chosen of Him,  
And that He had not led them away

- after the tradition of their brethren,  
And that their hearts were not stolen away to believe  
in things to come which they knew nothing about.
- 99 Now when the people had all offered up thanks  
after this manner, they returned to their homes,  
Never speaking of their God again until they had  
assembled themselves together again to the holy  
stand to offer up thanks after their manner.
- 100 Now when Alma saw this, his heart was grieved,  
For he saw that they were a wicked and a perverse people,  
Yea, he saw that their hearts were set upon gold and  
upon silver and upon all manner of fine goods,
- 101 Yea, and he also saw that their hearts were lifted up  
unto great boasting, in their pride.
- 102 And he lifted up his voice to heaven and cried, saying:  
“O how long, O Lord, wilt Thou suffer that Thy servants  
shall dwell here below in the flesh to behold such  
gross wickedness among the children of men?”
- 103 “Behold, O God, they cry unto Thee,  
And yet their hearts are swallowed up in their pride.
- 104 “Behold, O God, they cry unto Thee with their mouths  
while they are puffed up, even to greatness,  
with the vain things of the world.
- 105 “Behold, O my God, their costly apparel,  
and their ringlets and their bracelets,  
and their ornaments of gold,  
and all their precious things which they  
are ornamented with;
- 106 And behold, their hearts are set upon them,  
And yet they cry unto Thee and say, ‘We thank Thee,  
O God, for we are a chosen people unto Thee,’  
while others shall perish.
- 107 “Yea, and they say that Thou hast made it known  
unto them that there shall be no Christ!
- 108 “O Lord God, how long wilt Thou suffer that such  
wickedness and <sup>a</sup>infidelity shall be among this people?
- 109 “O Lord, wilt Thou give me strength  
that I may bear with mine infirmities?

<sup>a</sup> 2 Cor 6:15  
1 Tim 5:8

For I am infirm and such wickedness among  
this people doth pain my soul.

- 110 “O Lord, my heart is exceeding sorrowful;  
Wilt Thou comfort my soul in Christ?”
- 111 “O Lord, wilt Thou grant unto me that I may  
have strength that I may suffer with patience  
these afflictions which shall come upon me  
because of the iniquity of this people?”
- 112 “O Lord, wilt Thou comfort my soul  
and give unto me success?  
And also my fellow laborers which are with me—  
yea, Ammon and Aaron and Omner,  
and also Amulek and Zeezrom,  
and also my two sons—  
Yea, even all these wilt Thou comfort, O Lord?  
Yea, wilt Thou comfort their souls in Christ?”
- 113 Wilt Thou grant unto them that they may have strength  
that they may bear their afflictions which shall come  
upon them because of the iniquities of this people?”
- 114 “O Lord, wilt Thou grant unto us that we may have  
success in bringing them again unto Thee in Christ?”
- 115 “Behold, O Lord, their souls are precious  
and many of them are our near brethren;  
Therefore, give unto us, O Lord, power and wisdom that  
we may bring these our brethren again unto Thee.”
- 116 Now it came to pass that when Alma had said these words,  
that he clapped his hands upon all they  
which were with him;
- 117 And behold, as he clapped his hands upon them,  
they were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- 118 And after that, they did separate themselves one from  
another, taking no thought for themselves—  
what they should eat or what they should drink  
or what they should put on;
- 119 And the Lord provided for them, that they  
should hunger not, neither should they thirst,  
Yea, and He also gave them strength that they  
should suffer no manner of afflictions,

- save it were swallowed up in the joy of Christ.
- 120 Now this was according to the prayer of Alma,  
And this because he prayed in faith.
- 121 And it came to pass that they did go forth and began  
to preach the word of God unto the people, entering  
into their synagogues and into their houses,  
Yea, and even they did preach the word in their streets.
- 122 And it came to pass that after much labor among them,  
they began to have success among the poorer class  
of the people;  
For behold, they were cast out of the synagogues  
because of the coarseness of their apparel,
- 123 Therefore, they were not permitted to enter  
into their synagogues to worship God,  
being esteemed as filthiness;  
Therefore, they were poor, yea, they were esteemed  
by their priests as dross,  
Therefore, they were poor as to things of the world,  
and also they were poor in heart.
- 124 Now as Alma was teaching and speaking unto the people  
upon the Hill Onidah, there came a great multitude  
unto him which were those of which have been spoken  
which were poor in heart because of their poverty  
as to the things of the world;
- 125 And they came unto Alma,  
And the one which was the most foremost among them  
saith unto him:  
“Behold, what shall these my brethren do?  
For they are despised of all men because of their poverty,  
yea, and more especially by our priests;
- 126 For they have cast us out of our synagogues which we  
have labored abundantly to build with our own hands,  
And they have cast us out because of this our exceeding  
poverty, that we have no place to worship our God;  
And behold, what shall we do?”
- 127 And now when Alma heard this, he turned him about,  
his face immediately toward him,  
and he beheld with great joy,  
For he beheld that their afflictions had truly humbled them  
and that they were in a preparation to hear the word;

- 128 Therefore, he did say no more to the other multitude,  
 But he stretched forth his hand and cried unto those  
 which he beheld, which were truly penitent,  
 and saith unto them:  
 “I behold that ye are lowly in heart  
 and, if so, blessed are ye.
- 129 “Behold, thy brother hath said, ‘What shall we do,  
 for we are cast out of our synagogues  
 that we cannot worship our God?’
- 130 “Behold, I say unto you, do ye suppose that ye cannot  
 worship God save it be in your synagogues only?
- 131 And moreover, I would ask, do ye suppose that ye  
 must not worship God <sup>a</sup>only once in a week?
- 132 “I say unto you, it is well that ye are cast out of  
 your synagogues that ye may be humble  
 and that ye may learn wisdom,  
 For it is necessary that ye should learn wisdom;
- 133 For it is because that ye are cast out  
 that ye are despised of your brethren,  
 Because of your exceeding poverty that ye  
 are brought to a lowliness of heart,  
 For ye are necessarily brought to be humble.
- 134 “And now, because ye are compelled to be humble,  
 blessed are ye,  
 For a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble,  
 seeketh repentance.
- 135 “And now surely, whosoever repenteth shall find mercy,  
 And he that findeth mercy and endureth to the end,  
 the same shall be saved.
- 136 “And now as I said unto you that because ye  
 were compelled to be humble, ye were blessed,  
 Do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who  
 truly humble themselves because of the word?
- 137 Yea, he that truly humbleth himself and repenteth of his  
 sins and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed,  
 Yea, much more blessed than they who art compelled  
 to be humble because of their exceeding poverty;  
 Therefore, blessed are they who humbleth themselves  
 without being compelled to be humble,
- 138 Or rather, in other words,

a Mos 9:56-58

a Mos 2:13-17

- Blessed is he that believeth in the word of God  
and is baptized without stubbornness of heart,  
Yea, without being brought to know the word, or  
even compelled to know, before they will believe.
- 139 “Yea, there are many which do say, ‘If thou wilt  
show unto us a sign from heaven, then we  
shall know of a surety, then we shall believe.’
- 140 “Now I ask, is this faith?  
Behold, I say unto you, Nay,  
For if a man knoweth a thing, he hath  
no cause to believe, for he knoweth it.
- 141 “And now how much more cursed is he that knoweth  
the will of God and <sup>a</sup>doeth it not, than he that only  
believeth, or only hath cause to believe,  
and falleth into transgression?  
Now of this thing ye must judge.
- 142 “Behold, I say unto you that it is on the one hand  
even as it is on the other,  
And it shall be unto every man according to his work.
- 143 “And now as I said concerning faith,  
Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things;  
Therefore, if ye have faith, ye hope for things  
which are not seen, which are true.
- 144 “And now behold I say unto you, and I would  
that ye should remember that God is merciful  
unto all who believe on His name;  
Therefore, He desireth in the first place that ye  
should believe, yea, even on His word.
- 145 “And now, He imparteth His word by angels unto men—  
yea, not only men, but women also;
- 146 Now this is not all—  
Little children doth have words given unto them many  
times which doth confound the wise and the learned.
- 147 “And now my beloved brethren, as ye have desired  
to know of me what ye shall do because  
ye are afflicted and cast out—  
Now I do not desire that ye should suppose that I mean  
to judge you only according to that which is true,

- 148 For I do not mean that ye—all of you—have been  
compelled to humble yourselves,  
For I verily believe there are some among you which  
would humble themselves, let them be  
in whatsoever circumstances he might—
- 149 “Now as I said concerning faith—that it was not  
a perfect knowledge—even so it is with my words;
- 150 Ye cannot know of their surety at first, unto perfection,  
any more than faith is a perfect knowledge.
- 151 “But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties,  
even to an experiment upon my words,  
and exercise a particle of faith,  
Yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe,  
let this <sup>a</sup>desire work in you,  
Even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place  
for a portion of my words.
- 152 “Now, we will compare the word unto a <sup>1</sup>seed.
- 153 “Now, if ye give place that a seed  
may be planted in your heart,  
Behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed—  
if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief  
that ye will <sup>b</sup>resist the Spirit of the Lord—  
Behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts;
- 154 And when you feel these swelling motions,  
ye will begin to say within yourselves:  
‘It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the  
word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul,  
Yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding,  
Yea, and it beginneth to be delicious to me.’
- 155 “Now behold, would not this increase your faith?  
I say unto you, Yea;  
Nevertheless, it hath not grown up to a perfect knowledge.
- 156 “But behold, as the seed swelleth and sprouteth  
and beginneth to grow—  
And then ye must needs say that the seed is good,  
For behold, it swelleth and sprouteth  
and beginneth to grow—
- 157 And now behold, will not this strengthen your faith?  
Yea, it will strengthen your faith,  
For ye will say, ‘I know that this is a good seed,

a 1N 1:48  
2N 7:40

1 vv 153-173 =  
Book of Mormon  
version of NT  
parable of the  
sower; Heb 6  
refers to both; 6:8  
to sower; 6:11-12  
to A 16:170

b Jac 4:13

- For behold, it sprouteth and beginneth to grow.’
- 158 “And now behold, are ye sure that this is a good seed?  
I say unto you, yea, for every seed bringeth forth  
unto its own likeness;  
Therefore, if a seed groweth, it is good,  
But if it groweth not, behold, it is not good,  
Therefore, it is cast away.
- 159 “And now, behold, because ye have tried the experiment  
and planted the seed and it swelleth  
and sprouteth and beginneth to grow,  
Ye must needs know that the seed is good.
- 160 “And now behold, is your knowledge perfect?  
Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing  
and your faith is dormant;
- 161 And this because you know, or ye know  
that the word hath swelled your souls,  
And ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that  
your understanding doth begin to be enlightened  
and your mind doth begin to expand.
- 162 “O then, is not this real?  
I say unto you, yea, because it is light,  
And whatsoever is light is good, because it is discernible;  
Therefore, ye must know that it is good.
- 163 “And now behold, after ye have tasted this light,  
is your knowledge perfect?  
Behold, I say unto you, Nay;  
Neither must ye lay aside your faith,  
For ye have only exercised your faith to plant the seed,  
that ye might try the experiment  
to know if the seed were good.
- 164 “And behold, as the tree beginneth to grow, ye will say:  
‘Let us nourish it with great care, that it may get root,  
that it may grow up and bring forth fruit unto us.’
- 165 “And now behold, if ye nourish it with much care,  
it will get root and grow up and bring forth fruit;
- 166 But if ye neglect the tree and take no thought  
for its nourishment,  
Behold, it will not get any root;  
And when the heat of the sun cometh and scorcheth it,

and because it hath no root, it withereth away,  
And ye pluck it up and cast it out.

167 “Now this is not because the seed was not good,  
Neither is it because the fruit thereof  
would not be desirable;

168 But it is because your ground is barren  
and ye will not nourish the tree;  
Therefore, ye cannot have the fruit thereof.

169 “And thus it is if ye will not nourish the word, looking  
forward with an eye of faith to the fruit thereof,  
Ye can never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life;

170 But if ye will nourish the word—  
Yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow,  
by your faith with great diligence and with patience—  
looking forward to the fruit thereof,

<sup>1</sup>And it shall take root;  
And behold, it shall be a tree springing up  
unto everlasting life!

1 and = then

171 “And because of your diligence and your faith  
and your patience with the word in nourishing it,  
that it may take root in you,  
Behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof,  
which is most precious,  
which is sweet above all that is sweet,  
and which is white above all that is white,  
yea, and pure above all that is pure,

172 And ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled  
that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst;

173 Then my brethren, ye shall reap the rewards of your faith  
and your diligence and patience and longsuffering,  
waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you.”

174 Now after Alma had spoken these words, they sent forth  
unto him desiring to know whether they should  
believe in one God, that they might obtain this fruit  
of which he had spoken,

Or how they should plant the seed, or the word  
of which he had spoken, which he said  
must be planted in their hearts,

Or in what manner they should  
begin to exercise their faith.

- 175 And Alma saith unto them:  
 “Behold, ye have said that ye could not worship your God  
 because ye are cast out of your synagogues.
- 176 “But behold, I say unto you, if ye say that ye cannot  
 worship your God, ye do greatly err and ye  
 had ought to search the scriptures,  
 For if ye suppose that they have taught you this,  
 ye do not understand them.
- 177 “Do ye remember to have read what Zenos, the prophet  
 of old, hath said concerning prayer or worship?
- 178 For he saith:  
 ‘Thou art merciful, O God,  
 For Thou hast heard my prayer, even when  
 I was in the wilderness.
- ‘Yea, Thou wast merciful when I prayed concerning those  
 which were mine enemies,  
 And Thou didst turn them to me.
- 179 ‘Yea, O God, and Thou wast merciful unto me  
 when I did cry unto Thee in my field,  
 when I did cry unto Thee in my prayer,  
 And Thou didst hear me.
- 180 ‘And again, O God, when I did turn to my house,  
 Thou didst hear me in my prayer.
- 181 ‘And when I did turn unto my closet, O Lord,  
 and prayed unto Thee,  
 Thou didst hear me.
- ‘Yea, Thou art merciful unto Thy children when they cry  
 unto Thee to be heard of Thee and not of men,  
 And Thou wilt hear them.
- 182 ‘Yea, O God, Thou hast been merciful unto me and  
 heard my cries in the midst of Thy congregations;  
 Yea, and Thou also hast heard me when I have been  
 cast out and have been despised by mine enemies;
- 183 Yea, Thou didst hear my cries  
 and wast angry with mine enemies,  
 And Thou didst visit them in Thine anger,  
 with speedy destruction;  
 And Thou didst hear me because of mine afflictions

and my sincerity.

- 184 ‘And it is because of Thy Son that Thou hast been  
thus merciful unto me;  
Therefore, I will cry unto Thee in all mine afflictions,  
for in Thee is my joy,  
For Thou hast turned Thy judgments away from me  
because of Thy Son.’”
- 185 And now Alma saith unto them:  
“Do ye believe those scriptures which have been  
written by them of old?
- 186 Behold, if ye do, ye must believe what Zenos saith,  
For behold, he saith, ‘Thou hast turned away  
Thy judgments because of Thy Son.’
- 187 “Now behold, my brethren, I would ask,  
If ye have read these scriptures, how can ye disbelieve  
on the Son of God?
- 188 For it is not written that Zenos alone spake of these things,  
But Zenoch also spake of these things,  
For behold, he saith:  
‘Thou art angry, O Lord, with this people,  
Because they will not understand of Thy mercies which  
Thou hast bestowed upon them, because of Thy Son.’
- 189 “And now my brethren, ye see that a second prophet  
of old has testified of the Son of God,  
And because the people would not understand his words,  
they stoned him to death.
- 190 “But behold, this is not all—these are not the only ones  
which have spoken concerning the Son of God—
- 191 Behold, He was spoken of by Moses;  
Yea, and behold, a <sup>a</sup>type was raised up in the wilderness  
that whosoever would look upon it might live,  
And many did look and live;
- 192 But few understood the meaning of those things,  
and this because of the hardness of their hearts;
- 193 But there were many which were so hardened that  
they would not look, therefore they perished;
- 194 Now the reason that they would not look is because  
they did not believe that it would heal them.
- 195 “O my brethren, if ye could be healed by merely casting  
about your eyes that ye might behold,

a 2N 11:38-39

- would ye not behold quickly?  
 Or would ye rather harden your hearts in unbelief  
 and be slothful, that ye would not cast about  
 your eyes that ye might perish?
- 196 If so, wo shall come upon you;  
 But if not so, then cast about your eyes and  
 begin to believe in the Son of God, that He  
 will come to redeem His people,  
 And that He shall suffer and die to atone for their sins,
- 197 And that He shall rise again from the dead,  
 which shall bring to pass the resurrection,  
 That all men shall stand before Him to be judged at the  
 last and judgment day, according to their works.
- 198 “And now my brethren, I desire that ye should  
 plant this word in your hearts,  
 And as it beginneth to swell, even so  
 nourish it by your faith;
- 199 And behold, it will become a tree, springing up  
 in you unto everlasting life;
- 200 And then may God grant unto you that your burdens  
 may be light through the joy of His Son;  
 And even all this can ye do, if ye will. Amen.”
- 201 And now it came to pass that after Alma had spoken these  
 words unto them, he sat down upon the ground,  
 And Amulek arose and began to teach them, saying:  
 “My brethren, I think that it is impossible that ye should  
 be ignorant of the things which have been spoken  
 concerning the coming of Christ, who is taught  
 by us to be the Son of God;
- 202 Yea, I know that these things were taught unto you  
 bountifully before your dissension from among us,  
 And as ye have desired of my beloved brother  
 that he should make known unto you what ye  
 should do because of your afflictions—  
 And he hath spoken somewhat unto you  
 to prepare your minds,  
 Yea, and he hath exhorted you unto faith and to patience,
- 203 Yea, even that ye would have so much faith as even  
 to plant the word in your hearts, that ye may  
 try the experiment of its goodness.

“And we have beheld that the great question which is in

your minds is whether the word be in the Son of God,  
or whether there shall be no Christ.

- 204 “And ye also beheld that my brother hath proven  
unto you in many instances that the word  
is in Christ unto salvation;
- 205 My brother hath called upon the words of Zenos  
that redemption cometh through the Son of God,  
And also upon the words of Zenoch,  
And also he hath appealed unto Moses  
to prove that these things are true.
- 206 “And now behold, I will testify unto you of myself  
that these things are true;
- 207 Behold, I say unto you that I do know that Christ  
shall come among the children of men to take  
upon Him the transgressions of His people,  
And that He shall atone for the sins of the world,  
For the Lord God hath spoken it.
- 208 “For it is expedient that an atonement should be made;  
For according to the great plans of the Eternal God,  
there must be an atonement made, or else  
all mankind must unavoidably perish—
- 209 Yea, all are hardened,  
Yea, all are fallen and are lost and must perish,  
except it be through the atonement  
which it is expedient should be made.
- 210 “For it is expedient that there should be  
a great and last sacrifice,  
Yea, not a sacrifice of man,  
neither of beast,  
neither of any manner of fowl,  
For it shall not be a human sacrifice,  
But it must be an infinite and an eternal sacrifice.
- 211 “Now there is not any man that can sacrifice his own  
blood, which will atone for the sins of another.
- 212 “Now if a man murdereth, behold, will our law,  
which is just, take the life of his brother?  
I say unto you, Nay,
- 213 But the law requireth the life of him who hath murdered;  
Therefore, there is nothing which is short of an infinite  
atonement which will suffice for the sins of the world,

- Therefore, it is expedient that there  
should be a great and last sacrifice.
- 214 “And then shall there be, or it is expedient there  
should be, a stop to the shedding of blood,  
Then shall the law of Moses be fulfilled,  
Yea, it shall all be fulfilled, every jot and tittle,  
And none shall have passed away.
- 215 “And behold, this is the whole meaning of the law,  
every whit a pointing to that great and last sacrifice,  
And that great and last sacrifice will be the Son of God,  
yea, infinite and eternal.
- “And thus He shall bring salvation to all those  
who shall believe on His name,
- 216 This being the intent of this last sacrifice:  
To bring about the bowels of mercy,  
which overpowereth justice,  
And bringeth about means unto men  
that they may have faith unto repentance.
- 217 “And thus mercy can satisfy the demands of justice  
and encircles them in the arms of safety,  
While he that exerciseth no faith unto repentance is  
exposed to the whole law of the demands of justice;  
Therefore, only unto him that hath faith unto repentance is  
brought about the great and eternal plan of redemption.
- 218 “Therefore, may God grant unto you, my brethren, that  
ye might begin to exercise your faith unto repentance,  
That ye begin to call upon His holy name  
that He would have mercy upon you;  
Yea, cry unto Him for mercy, for He is mighty to save;
- 219 Yea, humble yourselves and continue in prayer unto Him—  
Cry unto Him when ye are in your fields,  
yea, over all your flocks;  
Cry unto Him in your houses, yea, over all your household,  
both morning, midday and evening;  
Yea, cry unto Him against the power of your enemies;  
Yea, cry unto Him against the devil  
which is an enemy to all righteousness;
- 220 Cry unto Him over the crops of your fields  
that ye may prosper in them;  
Cry over the flocks of your fields that they may increase.

- 221 “But this is not all—  
 Ye must pour out your souls in your closets  
 and your secret places and in your wilderness;
- 222 Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord,  
 Let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto Him  
 continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare  
 of those that are around you.
- 223 “And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you,  
 do not suppose that this is all,  
 For after ye have done all these things,  
 If ye turn away the needy and the naked, and visit not  
 the sick and afflicted and impart of your substance,  
 if ye have, to those which stand in need—
- 224 I say unto you, if ye do not any of these things,  
 Behold, your prayer is vain and availeth you nothing,  
 And ye are as hypocrites which do deny the faith;
- 225 Therefore, if ye do not remember to be charitable,  
 Ye are as dross which the refiners do cast out—it being  
 of no worth—and is trodden underfoot of men.
- 226 “And now my brethren, I would that after ye have  
 received so many witnesses—seeing that the holy  
 scripture testifies of these things—come forth  
 and bring fruit unto repentance!
- 227 Yea, I would that ye would come forth  
 and harden not your hearts any longer;  
 For behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation;  
 And therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts,  
 Immediately shall the great plan of redemption  
 be brought about unto you;
- 228 For behold, this life is the <sup>a</sup>time for men  
 to prepare to meet God;  
 Yea, behold, the day of this life is the day  
 for men to perform their labors.
- 229 “And now, as I said unto you before,  
 as ye have had so many witnesses,  
 Therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not <sup>b</sup>procrastinate  
 the day of your repentance until the end;
- 230 For after this day of life, which is given us  
 to prepare for eternity,  
 Behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life,  
 then cometh the night of darkness wherein  
 there can be no labor performed.

a A 9:41

b A 10:27-28

- 231 “Ye cannot say when ye are brought to that awful crisis  
that ‘I will repent,’ that ‘I will return to my God’;  
232 Nay, ye cannot say this,  
For that same spirit which doth possess your bodies  
at the time that ye go out of this life,  
That same spirit will have power to possess your body  
in that eternal world.
- 233 “For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day  
of your repentance, even until death,  
Behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil,  
And he doth seal you his;  
234 Therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you  
and hath no place in you,  
And the devil hath all power over you;  
And this is the final state of the wicked.
- 235 “And this I know because the Lord hath said  
He dwelleth not in unholy temples,  
But in the hearts of the righteous doth He dwell;  
236 Yea, and He hath also said that the righteous should  
sit down in His kingdom to go no more out,  
But their garments should be made white  
through the blood of the Lamb.
- 237 “And now my beloved brethren, I desire  
that ye should remember these things,  
And that ye should work out your salvation  
with fear before God,  
And that ye should no more deny the coming of Christ,  
That ye contend no more against the Holy Ghost,  
But that ye receive it and take upon you  
the <sup>a</sup>name of Christ,  
That ye humble yourselves even to the dust  
and worship God in whatsoever place  
ye may be in, in spirit and in truth,  
238 And that ye live in thanksgiving daily for the many mercies  
and blessings which He doth bestow upon you.
- “Yea, and I also exhort you, my brethren,  
that ye be watchful unto prayer continually,  
That ye may not be led away  
by the temptations of the devil,  
That he may not overpower you,  
That ye may not become his subjects at the last day;

a Mos 3:11

For behold, he rewardeth you no good thing.

- 239 “And now my beloved brethren, I would exhort you  
to have patience and that ye bear  
with all manner of afflictions,  
That ye do not revile against those who do cast you out  
because of your exceeding poverty,  
lest ye become sinners like unto them,  
But that ye have patience and bear with those afflictions,  
with a firm hope that ye shall one day  
rest from all your afflictions.”
- 240 Now it came to pass that after Amulek  
had made an end of these words,  
They withdrew themselves from the multitude  
and came over into the Land of Jershon;
- 241 Yea, and the rest of the brethren, after they had  
preached the word unto the Zoramites,  
also came over into the Land of Jershon.
- 242 And it came to pass that after the more popular part  
of the Zoramites had consulted together concerning  
the words which had been preached unto them,  
They were angry because of the word,  
for it did destroy their craft;  
Therefore, they would not hearken unto the words.
- 243 And they sent and gathered together  
throughout all the land all the people,  
And consulted with them concerning the words  
which had been spoken.
- 244 Now their rulers and their priests and their teachers  
did not let the people know concerning their desires,  
Therefore, they found out privily  
the minds of all the people.
- 245 And it came to pass that after they had found out  
the minds of all the people,  
Those which were in favor of the words  
which had been spoken by Alma and his brethren  
were cast out of the land—  
And they were many—  
And they came over also into the Land of Jershon.
- 246 And it came to pass that Alma and his brethren  
did minister unto them.

247 Now the people of the Zoramites were angry with  
the people of Ammon which were in Jershon;  
And the chief ruler of the Zoramites, being a very wicked  
man, sent over unto the people of Ammon desiring them  
that they should cast out of their land all those  
which came over from them into their land,  
248 And he breathed out many threatenings against them.  
249 And now the people of Ammon did not fear their words,  
Therefore, they did not cast them out;  
But they did receive all the poor of the Zoramites  
that came over unto them,  
250 And they did nourish them and did clothe them  
and did give unto them lands for their inheritance;  
And they did administer unto them  
according to their wants.  
251 Now this did stir up the Zoramites to anger  
against the people of Ammon,  
And they began to mix with the Lamanites and  
to stir them up also to anger against them;  
252 And thus the Zoramites and the Lamanites began to make  
preparations for war against the people of Ammon,  
and also against the Nephites.  
253 And thus <sup>1</sup>ended the seventeenth year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi.  
254 And the people of Ammon departed out of the Land  
of Jershon and came over into the Land of Melek,  
And gave place in the Land of Jershon for the armies  
of the Nephites, that they might contend with the armies  
of the Lamanites and the armies of the Zoramites.  
255 And thus commenced a war betwixt the Lamanites  
and the Nephites in the <sup>2</sup>eighteenth year  
of the reign of the judges,  
And an <sup>a</sup>account shall be given of their wars hereafter.  
256 And Alma and Ammon and their brethren, and also the  
two sons of Alma, returned to the Land of Zarahemla  
after having been instruments in the hands of God  
of bringing many of the Zoramites to repentance,  
And as many as were brought to repentance  
were driven out of their land;  
257 But they have lands for their inheritance

<sup>1</sup> began A 16:3

<sup>2</sup> 74 BC  
ends A 20:99

<sup>a</sup> A 20:3

in the Land of Jershon,  
 And they have taken up arms to defend themselves  
 and their wives and their children and their lands.

- 258 Now Alma, being grieved for the iniquity of his people,  
 Yea, for the wars and the bloodsheds and the contentions  
 which were among them,  
 And having been to declare the word, or sent to declare  
 the word among all the people in every city,  
 259 And seeing that the hearts of the people began  
 to wax hard and that they began to be offended  
 because of the strictness of the word,  
 His heart was exceeding sorrowful;  
 260 Therefore, he caused that his sons  
 should be gathered together,  
 That he might give unto them, every one,  
 his charge separately concerning the things  
 pertaining unto righteousness.
- 261 And we have an <sup>a</sup>account of his commandments which  
 he gave unto them, according to his own record.

a chs 17-19

## 17 *The commandments of Alma to his son Helaman.*

- 1 **MY SON**, give ear to my words,  
 For I swear unto you that inasmuch as ye shall keep the  
 commandments of God, ye shall prosper in the land;  
 2 I would that ye should do as I have done in  
 remembering the captivity of our fathers,  
 For they were in bondage and none could deliver them  
 except it was the God of Abraham  
 and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob,  
 And He surely did deliver them in their afflictions.
- 3 And now, O my son Helaman,  
 behold, thou art in thy youth,  
 And, therefore, I beseech of thee that thou  
 wilt hear my words and learn of me;  
 For I do know that whomsoever shall put his trust in God  
 shall be supported in their trials and their troubles and  
 their afflictions and shall be lifted up at the last day;  
 4 And I would not that ye think that I know of myself—  
 not of the temporal, but of the spiritual,

a Mos 11:188  
 A 3:27; 13:49  
 1 John 3:9; 4:7  
 b Mos 11:162-176

1 if thou wilt =  
 unless  
 Mos 11:175

c A 19:17-18

- not of the carnal mind, but of God.
- 5 Now behold, I say unto you, if I had not been <sup>a</sup>born  
 of God, I should not have known these things;  
 But God hath by the mouth of His holy <sup>b</sup>angel  
 made these things known unto me,  
 Not of any worthiness of myself, for I went about with the  
 sons of Mosiah seeking to destroy the church of God;  
 But behold, God sent His holy angel to stop us by the way;
- 6 And behold, he spake unto us as it were  
 the voice of thunder,  
 And the whole earth did tremble beneath our feet,  
 And we all fell to the earth, for the fear of the Lord  
 came upon us.
- 7 But behold, the voice said unto me, “Arise!”  
 And I arose and stood up and beheld the angel,  
 And he said unto me:  
<sup>1</sup>“If thou wilt of thyself be destroyed, seek no more  
 to destroy the church of God!”
- 8 And it came to pass that I fell to the earth;  
 And it was for the space of three days and three nights  
 that I could not open my mouth,  
 neither had I the use of my limbs;
- 9 And the angel spake more things unto me which were  
 heard by my brethren, but I did not hear them,  
 For when I heard the words—“If thou wilt be destroyed  
 of thyself, seek no more to destroy the church of  
 God!”—I was struck with such great fear and  
 amazement, lest perhaps that I should be destroyed,  
 that I fell to the earth and I did hear no more;
- 10 But I was racked with eternal torment, for my soul  
 was harrowed up to the greatest degree  
 and racked with all my sins—  
 Yea, I did remember all my sins and iniquities,  
 for which I was tormented with the pains of hell,
- 11 Yea, I saw that I had rebelled against my God  
 and that I had not kept His holy commandments,  
 Yea, and I had murdered many of His children,  
 or rather, <sup>c</sup>led them away unto destruction,
- 12 Yea, and in fine, so great had been my iniquities that the  
 very thoughts of coming into the presence of my God  
 did rack my soul with inexpressible horror;

- 13 O, thought I, that I could be banished and become extinct,  
both soul and body!  
That I might not be brought to stand in the presence  
of my God to be judged of my deeds!
- 14 And now, for three days and for three nights  
was I racked even with the pains of a damned soul.
- 15 And it came to pass that as I was thus racked  
with torment—while I was harrowed up  
by the memory of my many sins—  
Behold, I remembered also to have heard my father prophesy  
unto the people concerning the coming of one Jesus  
Christ, a Son of God, to atone for the sins of the world.
- 16 Now, as my mind caught hold upon this thought,  
I cried within my heart,  
O Jesus, Thou Son of God, have mercy on me who art  
in the gall of bitterness and art encircled about  
by the everlasting chains of death!
- 17 And now behold, when I thought this,  
I could remember my pains no more,  
Yea, I was harrowed up by the memory  
of my sins no more;
- 18 And O, what joy and what marvelous light I did behold!  
Yea, my soul was filled with joy  
as exceeding as was my pain;  
Yea, I say unto you my son, that there can be nothing  
so exquisite and so bitter as were my pains;
- 19 Yea, and again I say unto you my son,  
that on the other hand there can be nothing  
so exquisite and sweet as was my joy.
- 20 Yea, and methought I saw, even as our father Lehi saw,  
God sitting upon His throne surrounded with  
numberless concourses of angels in the attitude  
of singing and praising their God,  
Yea, and my soul did long to be there;
- 21 But behold, my limbs did receive their strength again,  
And I stood upon my feet and did manifest unto the people  
that I had been born of God;
- 22 Yea, and from that time even until now,  
I have labored without ceasing that I might  
bring souls unto repentance,

- That I might bring them to taste of the exceeding joy  
of which I did taste,  
That they might also be born of God  
and be filled with the Holy Ghost.
- 23 Yea, and now behold, O my son, the Lord doth give me  
exceeding great joy in the fruits of my labors,  
For because of the word which He hath imparted unto me,  
Behold, many hath been born of God,  
and hath tasted, as I have tasted,  
and hath seen eye to eye, as I have seen;
- 24 Therefore, they do know of these things  
of which I have spoken, as I do know,  
And the knowledge which I have is of God.
- 25 And I have been supported under trials and troubles  
of every kind, yea, and in all manner of afflictions,  
Yea, God hath delivered me from prisons  
and from bonds and from death,  
Yea, and I do put my trust in Him  
and He will still deliver me;
- 26 And I know that He will raise me up at the last day  
to dwell with Him in glory.
- Yea, and I will praise Him forever!  
For He hath brought our fathers out of Egypt—  
And He hath swallowed up the Egyptians in the Red Sea—  
And He led them by His power into the Promised Land,
- 27 Yea, and He hath delivered them out of bondage  
and captivity from time to time,  
Yea, and He hath also brought our fathers  
out of the Land of Jerusalem,  
And He hath also, by His everlasting power, delivered  
them out of bondage and captivity from time to time,  
even down to the present day;
- 28 And I have always retained in remembrance their captivity,  
Yea, and ye also had ought to retain in remembrance,  
as I have done, their captivity.
- 29 But behold, my son, this is not all—  
For ye had ought to know, as I do know, that inasmuch  
as ye shall keep the commandments of God,  
ye shall prosper in the land,
- 30 And ye had ought to know also that inasmuch  
as ye will not keep the commandments of God,

ye shall be cut off from His presence;  
Now this is according to His word.

- 31 And now my son Helaman, I command you that ye take the records which have been entrusted with me, And I also command you that ye shall keep a record of this people, according as I have done, upon the plates of Nephi; And keep all these things sacred which I have kept, even as I have kept them—for it is for a wise purpose that they are kept—
- 32 And these plates of brass which contain these engravings, which have the records of the holy scriptures upon them, which have the genealogy of our forefathers, even from the beginning;
- 33 And behold, it hath been prophesied by our fathers that they should be kept and handed down from one generation to another and be kept and preserved by the hand of the Lord, Until they shall go forth unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people, that they shall know of the mysteries contained thereon.
- 34 And now behold, if they are kept, they must retain their brightness, Yea, and they will retain their brightness, Yea, and also shall all the plates which do contain that which is holy writ.
- 35 Now ye may suppose that this is foolishness in me; But behold, I say unto you that by small and simple things are great things brought to pass, And small means, in many instances, doth confound the wise;
- 36 And the Lord God doth work by means to bring about His great and eternal purposes, And by very small means the Lord doth confound the wise and bringeth about the salvation of many souls.
- 37 And now, it hath hitherto been wisdom in God that these things should be preserved; For behold, they have enlarged the <sup>a</sup>memory of this people, Yea, and convinced many of the error of their ways, And brought them to the knowledge of their God, unto the salvation of their souls;

<sup>a</sup> Mos 1:4-9

- 38 Yea, I say unto you, were it not for these things that these records do contain, which are on these plates, Ammon and his brethren could not have convinced so many thousands of the Lamanites of the incorrect tradition of their fathers;
- 39 Yea, these records and their words brought them unto repentance, That is, they brought them to the knowledge of the Lord their God and to rejoice in Jesus Christ their Redeemer;
- 40 And who knoweth but what they will be the means of bringing many thousands of them—yea, and also many thousands of our stiff-necked brethren the Nephites, which are now hardening their hearts in sins and iniquities—to the knowledge of their Redeemer.
- 41 Now these mysteries are not yet fully made known unto me, therefore I shall forbear;
- 42 And it may suffice if I only say they are preserved for a wise purpose, which purpose is known unto God, For He doth counsel in wisdom over all His works, And His <sup>a</sup>paths are strait, And His course is one eternal round.
- 43 O remember, remember, my son Helaman, how strict are the commandments of God!
- 44 And He saith, “If ye will keep My commandments, ye shall prosper in the land,” But if ye keep not His commandments, ye shall be cut off from His presence.
- 45 And now remember, my son, that God hath entrusted you with these things which are sacred, which He hath kept sacred, And also which He will keep and preserve for a wise purpose in Him, that He may show forth His power unto future generations.
- 46 And now behold, I tell you by the spirit of prophecy that if ye transgress the commandments of God, Behold, these things which are sacred shall be taken away from you by the power of God, And ye shall be delivered up unto satan that he may sift you as chaff before the wind;
- 47 But if ye keep the commandments of God and do with these things which are sacred, according to that which

<sup>a</sup> 2N 6:80-81  
Mn 4:68, 81-82

the Lord doth command you—for you must appeal  
unto the Lord for all things whatsoever  
ye must do with them—

Behold, no power of earth or hell can take them from you;  
For God is powerful to the fulfilling of all His words,

48 For He will fulfill all His promises  
which He shall make unto you,

For He hath fulfilled His promise  
which He hath made unto our fathers,

49 For He promised unto them that He would <sup>a</sup>preserve  
these things for a wise purpose in Him, that He might  
show forth His power unto future generations.

a A 17:31

50 And now behold, one purpose hath He fulfilled,  
even to the restoration of many thousands  
of the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth;  
And He hath shown forth His power in them,  
And He will also still show forth His power  
in them unto future generations,  
Therefore, they shall be preserved;

51 Therefore, I command you, my son Helaman,  
that ye be diligent in fulfilling all my words,  
And that ye be diligent in keeping the commandments  
of God as they are written.

52 And now, I will speak unto you concerning  
those twenty-four plates, that ye keep them,  
That the mysteries and the works of darkness  
and their secret works—or the secret works  
of those people which have been destroyed—  
may be made manifest unto this people—

53 Yea, all their murders and robbings and their plunderings,  
and all their wickedness and abominations  
may be made manifest unto this people—  
Yea, and that ye preserve these directors.

54 For behold, the Lord saw that His people  
began to work in darkness, yea,  
work secret murders and abominations;  
Therefore, the Lord said if they did not repent,  
they should be destroyed from off the face of the earth.

55 And the Lord said:

“I will prepare unto My servant Gazelem a <sup>b</sup>stone  
which shall shine forth in darkness unto light,

b Eth 1:87-89

That I may discover unto My people which serve Me—  
 That I may discover unto them the works  
 of their brethren—  
 Yea, their secret works, their works of darkness  
 and their wickedness and abominations.”

a Mos 12:18-21

- 56 And now, my son, these <sup>a</sup>directors were prepared that the  
 word of God might be fulfilled which He spake, saying:  
 “I will bring forth out of darkness unto light  
 all their secret works and their abominations;  
 57 And, except they repent, I will destroy them  
 from off the face of the earth;  
 And I will bring to light all their secrets and abominations  
 unto every nation that shall hereafter possess the land.”
- 58 And now my son, we see that they did not repent,  
 Therefore, they have been destroyed;  
 And thus far the word of God hath been fulfilled,  
 Yea, their secret abominations have been brought  
 out of darkness and made known unto us.
- 59 And now my son, I command you that ye retain  
 all their oaths and their covenants and their  
 agreements in their secret abominations;  
 Yea, and all their signs and their wonders ye shall retain  
 from this people, that they know them not,  
 Lest peradventure they should fall  
 into darkness also and be destroyed;
- 60 For behold, there is a curse upon all this land  
 that destruction shall come upon all those workers  
 of darkness—according to the power of God—  
 when they are fully ripe.
- Therefore, I desire that this people might not be destroyed;
- 61 Therefore, ye shall keep these secret plans of their oaths  
 and their covenants from this people,  
 And only their wickedness and their murders and their  
 abominations shall ye make known unto them,
- 62 And ye shall teach them to abhor such wickedness  
 and abominations and murders,  
 And ye shall also teach them that these people  
 were destroyed on account of their wickedness  
 and abominations and their murders;
- 63 For behold, they murdered all the prophets of the Lord  
 which came among them to declare unto them

concerning their iniquities,  
 And the blood of those which they murdered did cry  
 unto the Lord their God for vengeance  
 upon those which were their murderers.

64 And thus the judgments of God did come upon these  
 workers of darkness and secret combinations;  
 Yea, and cursed be the land forever and ever unto  
 those workers of darkness and secret combinations,  
 even unto destruction, except they repent  
 before they are fully ripe.

65 And now my son, remember the words  
 which I have spoken unto you;  
 Trust not those secret plans unto this people, but teach  
 them an everlasting hatred against sin and iniquity,

66 Preach unto them repentance and faith  
 on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
 Teach them to humble themselves  
 and to be meek and lowly in heart,  
 Teach them to withstand every <sup>a</sup>temptation of the devil

a 2N 6:89

67 Teach them to never be weary of good works,  
 but to be meek and lowly in heart;  
 For such shall find rest to their souls.

68 O remember, my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth,  
 Yea, learn in thy youth to keep  
 the commandments of God,

Yea, and cry unto God for all thy support,  
 69 Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord,  
 And whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord,  
 Yea, let all thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord,  
 Yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed  
 upon the Lord forever,

Counsel the Lord in all thy doings  
 and He will direct thee for good,  
 70 Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto  
 the Lord that He may watch over you in your sleep,  
 And when thou risest in the morning,  
 let thy heart be full of thanks unto God;  
 And if ye always do these things,  
 ye shall be lifted up at the last day.

71 And now, my son, I have somewhat to say concerning

a 1N 5:11, 190-209  
2N 4:17

the thing which our fathers call a <sup>a</sup>ball or director,  
Or our fathers called it “liahona,” which is,  
being interpreted, a “compass,”

And the Lord prepared it;

72 And behold, there cannot any man work after  
the manner of so curious a workmanship,

73 And behold, it was prepared to show unto our fathers  
the course which they should travel in the wilderness.

And it did work for them according to their faith in God;

74 Therefore, if they had faith to believe that God could cause  
that those spindles should point the way they should go,  
Behold, it was done;

Therefore, they had this miracle, and also many other  
miracles wrought by the power of God, day by day;

75 Nevertheless, because those miracles were worked  
by small means, nevertheless it did show unto them  
marvelous works.

76 They were slothful and forgot to exercise  
their faith and diligence,

And then those marvelous works ceased and they  
did not progress in their journey;

77 Therefore, they tarried in the wilderness, or did not  
travel a direct course, and were afflicted with  
hunger and thirst because of their transgression.

78 And now my son, I would that ye should understand  
that these things are not without a shadow;

For as our fathers were slothful to give heed  
to this compass—now these things were temporal—  
they did not prosper,

Even so it is with things which are spiritual;

79 For behold, it is as easy to give heed to the word of Christ,  
which will point to you a strait course to eternal bliss,

As it was for our fathers to give heed to this compass,  
which would point unto them a <sup>b</sup>strait course  
to the Promised Land.

b H 2:26

80 And now I say, is there not a type in this thing?

For just assuredly as this director did bring our fathers,  
by following its course, to the Promised Land,

Shall the word of Christ, if we follow its course,  
carry us beyond this vale of sorrow  
into a far better Land of Promise.

- 81 O my son, do not let us be slothful because of the easiness  
of the way, for so was it with our fathers;  
For so was it prepared for them—that if they would look,  
they might live—even so it is with us.
- 82 The way is prepared—  
And if we will look, we may live forever.
- 83 And now my son, see that ye take care of  
these sacred things,  
Yea, see that ye look to God and live;
- 84 Go unto this people and declare the word and be sober.
- My son, farewell.

## 18 *The commandments of Alma to his son Shiblon.*

- 1 **MY SON**, give ear to my words,  
For I say unto you, even as I said unto Helaman,  
that inasmuch as ye shall keep the commandments  
of God, ye shall prosper in the land,  
And inasmuch as ye will not keep the commandments  
of God, ye shall be cut off from His presence.
- 2 And now my son, I trust that I shall have great joy  
in you because of your steadiness  
and your faithfulness unto God;  
For as you have commenced in your youth  
to look to the Lord your God,  
Even so I hope that you will continue  
in keeping His commandments;  
For blessed is he that endureth to the end.
- 3 I say unto you my son, that I have had great joy in thee  
already <sup>a</sup>because of thy faithfulness and thy diligence  
and thy patience and thy longsuffering  
among the people of the Zoramites;
- 4 For I knew that thou wast in bonds,  
Yea, and I also knew that thou wast stoned  
for the word's sake;  
And thou didst bear all these things with patience  
because the Lord was with thee,  
And now thou knowest that the Lord did deliver thee.

a A 16:170-173

- 5 And now my son Shiblon, I would that ye should  
remember that as much as ye shall put your trust in God,  
Even so much ye shall be delivered out of your trials,  
and your troubles,  
and your afflictions,  
And ye shall be lifted up at the last day.
- 6 Now my son, I would not that ye should think  
that I know these things of myself,  
But it is the Spirit of God which is in me  
which maketh these things known unto me,  
For if I had not been born of God,  
I should not have known these things;
- 7 But behold, the Lord in His great mercy sent  
His angel to declare unto me that I must stop  
the work of destruction among His people;
- 8 Yea, and I have seen an angel face to face,  
And he spake with me,  
And his voice was as thunder,  
And it shook the whole earth.
- 9 And it came to pass that I was <sup>a</sup>three days and three nights  
in the most bitter pain and anguish of soul,  
And never, until I did cry out unto the Lord Jesus Christ  
for mercy, did I receive a remission of my sins;
- 10 But behold, I did cry unto Him,  
And I did find peace to my soul.
- 11 And now my son, I have told you this  
that ye might learn wisdom,  
That ye may learn of me that there is no other way  
nor means whereby man can be saved—  
Only in and through Christ—
- 12 Behold, He is the life and the light of the world;  
Behold, He is the word of truth and righteousness.
- 13 And now, as ye have begun to teach the word,  
even so I would that ye should continue to teach,  
And I would that ye should be diligent  
and temperate in all things—
- 14 See that ye are not lifted up unto pride,  
Yea, see that ye do not boast in your own wisdom  
nor of your much strength,  
Use boldness, but not overbearance,
- 15 And also see that ye bridle all your passions,

a Mos 11:179-186  
A 17:8-19

That ye may be filled with love,  
See that ye refrain from idleness.

Do not pray as the Zoramites do,  
For ye have seen that they pray to be heard of men  
and to be praised for their wisdom—

16 Do not say, “O God, I thank Thee that we are better  
than our brethren,”

But rather say, “O Lord, forgive my unworthiness  
and remember my brethren in mercy”—

Yea, acknowledge your unworthiness  
before God at all times.

17 And may the Lord bless your soul,  
And receive you at the last day into His kingdom  
to sit down in peace.

18 Now go, my son, and teach the word unto this people;  
Be sober, my son. Farewell.

## 19 *The commandments of Alma to his son Coreanton.*

1 **AND NOW** my son, I have somewhat more to say  
unto thee than what I said unto thy brother;  
For behold, have ye not observed the steadiness  
of thy brother, his faithfulness and his diligence  
in keeping the commandments of God?  
2 Behold, has he not set a good example for thee?  
3 For thou didst not give so much heed unto my words  
as did thy brother among the people of the Zoramites.

4 Now this is what I have against thee—  
Thou didst go on unto boasting in thy strength  
and thy wisdom.

5 And this is not all, my son—  
Thou didst do that which was grievous unto me,  
For thou didst forsake the ministry and did go over into  
the Land of Siron, among the borders of the Lamanites,  
after the harlot Isabel;

Yea, she did steal away the hearts of many;  
But this was no excuse for thee, my son;  
6 Thou shouldst have tended to the ministry  
wherewith thou wast entrusted.

- 7 Know ye not, my son, that these things are  
an abomination in the sight of the Lord?  
Yea, most abominable above all sins, save it be the shedding  
of innocent blood or denying the Holy Ghost.
- 8 For behold, if ye deny the Holy Ghost  
when it once hath had place in you—  
And ye know that ye deny it—  
Behold, this is a sin which is unpardonable.
- 9 Yea, and whosoever murdereth against the light  
and knowledge of God, it is not easy for him  
to obtain forgiveness,  
Yea, I say unto you my son, that it is  
not easy for him to obtain a forgiveness!
- 10 And now my son, I would to God that ye  
had not been guilty of so great a crime;  
11 I would not dwell upon your crimes to harrow up  
your soul, if it were not for your good;  
12 But behold, ye cannot hide your crimes from God,  
And except ye repent, they will stand as  
a testimony against you at the last day.
- 13 Now my son, I would that ye should repent and forsake  
your sins and go no more after the lusts of your eyes,  
but cross yourself in all these things,  
For except ye do this, ye can in no wise  
inherit the kingdom of God;
- 14 O remember, and take it upon you  
and cross yourself in these things.
- 15 And I command you to take it upon you to counsel  
your elder brothers in your undertakings,  
For behold, thou art in thy youth and ye stand in need  
to be nourished by your brothers;
- 16 And give heed to their counsel;  
Suffer not yourself to be led away  
by any vain or foolish thing,  
Suffer not that the devil lead away  
your heart again after those wicked harlots.
- 17 Behold, O my son, how great iniquity  
ye brought upon the Zoramites!  
For when they saw your conduct,  
they would not believe in my words.

- 18 And now the Spirit of the Lord doth say unto me:  
 “Command thy children to do good, lest they lead away  
 the hearts of many people to destruction.”
- 19 Therefore, I command you, my son, in the fear of God,  
 that ye refrain from your iniquities,  
 That ye turn to the Lord with all your mind, might  
 and strength,  
 That ye lead away the hearts of no more to do wickedly;
- 20 But rather return unto them and acknowledge your faults  
 and <sup>1</sup>retain that wrong which ye have done;  
<sup>a</sup>Seek not after riches nor the vain things of this world,  
 For behold, you cannot carry them with you.
- 21 And now my son, I would say somewhat unto you  
 concerning the coming of Christ—
- 22 Behold, I say unto you that it is He that surely  
 shall come to take away the sins of the world,  
 Yea, He cometh to declare glad tidings of salvation  
 unto His people.
- 23 And now my son, this was the ministry  
 unto which ye were called—  
 To declare these glad tidings unto this people,  
 To prepare their minds, or rather, that salvation might  
 come unto them, that they may prepare the minds  
 of their children to hear the word at the time  
 of His coming.
- 24 And now I will ease your mind somewhat on this subject.  
 Behold, you marvel why these things should be known  
 so long beforehand;
- 25 Behold, I say unto you, is not a soul at this time as precious  
 unto God as a soul will be at the time of His coming?
- 26 Is it not as necessary that the plan of redemption should  
 be made known unto this people as well as  
 unto their children?
- 27 Is it not as easy at this time for the Lord to send His  
 angel to declare those glad tidings unto us as unto  
 our children or as after the time of His coming?
- 28 Now my son, here is somewhat more  
 I would say unto thee,  
 For I perceive that thy mind is worried  
 concerning the resurrection of the dead;

<sup>1</sup> retain =  
 remember  
<sup>a</sup> Jac 2:23-24

- 29 Behold, I say unto you that there is no resurrection—  
or I would say in other words,  
that this mortal does not put on immortality,  
this corruption does not put on incorruption—  
Until after the coming of Christ;
- 30 Behold, He bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead;  
But behold, my son, the resurrection is not yet.
- 31 Now I unfold unto you a mystery—nevertheless,  
there are many mysteries which are kept  
that no one knoweth them save God Himself,
- 32 But I show unto you one thing which I have  
inquired diligently of God that I might know—  
that is, concerning the resurrection.
- 33 Behold, there is a time appointed  
that all shall come forth from the dead,
- 34 Now when this time cometh, no one knows,  
But God knoweth the time which is appointed;
- 35 Now whether there shall be one time or a second time  
or a third time that men shall come forth from the dead,  
it mattereth not,  
For God knoweth all these things;  
And it sufficeth me to know that this is the case, that there  
is a time appointed that all shall rise from the dead.
- 36 Now there must needs be a space betwixt the time of death  
and the time of the resurrection;
- 37 And now I would inquire, what becometh of the souls  
of men from this time of death to the time  
appointed for the resurrection?
- 38 Now whether there is more than one time  
appointed for men to rise, it mattereth not,  
For all do not die at once, and this mattereth not;  
All is as one day with God and time only  
is measured unto man;
- 39 Therefore, there is a time appointed unto men  
that they shall rise from the dead,  
And there is a space between the time of death  
and the resurrection.
- 40 And now concerning this space of time—  
What becometh of the souls of men is the thing  
which I have inquired diligently of the Lord to know,  
And this is the thing of which I do know;

- 41 And when the time cometh when all shall rise,  
then shall they know that God knoweth  
all the times which are appointed unto man.
- 42 Now concerning the state of the soul  
between death and the resurrection—
- 43 Behold, it hath been made known unto me by an angel  
that the spirits of all men, as soon as they  
are departed from this mortal body,  
Yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil,  
are taken home to that God who gave them life.
- 44 And then shall it come to pass that the spirits  
of those which are righteous are received  
into a state of happiness which is called paradise—  
a state of rest, a state of peace—  
Where they shall rest from all their troubles  
and from all care and sorrow, etc.
- 45 And then shall it come to pass that the spirits  
of the wicked, yea, which are evil—  
For behold, they have no part nor portion  
of the Spirit of the Lord,  
For behold, they chose evil works rather than good,  
Therefore, the spirit of the devil did enter into them  
and take possession of their house—
- 46 And these shall be cast out into outer darkness;  
There shall be weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth,  
And this because of their own iniquity,  
being led captive by the will of the devil.
- 47 Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked,  
yea, in darkness,  
And a state of awful, fearful looking for, of the fiery  
indignation of the wrath of God upon them;  
Thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous  
in paradise, until the time of their resurrection.
- 48 Now there are some that have understood that this state  
of happiness and this state of misery of the soul  
before the resurrection was a first resurrection;
- 49 Yea, I admit it may be termed a resurrection—the raising  
of the spirit or the soul and their consignation to  
happiness or misery—according to the words  
which have been spoken.

- 50 And behold, again it hath been spoken  
that there is a first resurrection—  
A resurrection of all those which have been,  
or which are, or which shall be, down to  
the resurrection of Christ from the dead.
- 51 Now we do not suppose that this first resurrection  
which has been spoken of in this manner can be  
the resurrection of the souls and their consignment  
to happiness or misery—  
Ye cannot suppose that this is what it meaneth;
- 52 Behold, I say unto you, Nay,  
But it meaneth the reuniting of the soul  
with the body of those from the days of Adam  
down to the resurrection of Christ.
- 53 Now whether the souls and the bodies of those of which  
have been spoken shall all be reunited at once, the  
wicked as well as the righteous, I do not say;
- 54 Let it suffice that I say that they all come forth,  
Or in other words, their resurrection cometh to pass  
before the resurrection of those which die  
after the resurrection of Christ.
- 55 Now my son, I do not say that their resurrection  
cometh at the resurrection of Christ,  
But behold, I give it as my opinion that the souls and the  
bodies are reunited of the righteous at the resurrection  
of Christ and His ascension into heaven;
- 56 But whether it be at His resurrection, or after, I do not say.  
  
But this much I say—that there is a space between death  
and the resurrection of the body, and a state of the soul  
in happiness or in misery,  
Until the time which is appointed of God that the dead  
shall come forth and be reunited, both soul and body,  
And be brought to stand before God and be judged  
according to their works.
- 57 Yea, this bringeth about the restoration  
of those things of which have been spoken  
by the mouths of the prophets—
- 58 The soul shall be restored to the body  
and the body to the soul,  
Yea, and every limb and joint shall be restored to its body,

Yea, even a hair of their heads shall not be lost;  
But all things shall be restored to its proper  
and perfect frame.

- 59 And now my son, this is the restoration of which  
has been spoken by the mouths of the prophets,  
And then shall the righteous shine forth  
in the kingdom of God.
- 60 But behold, an awful death cometh upon the wicked,  
For they die as to things pertaining to  
things of righteousness,  
For they are unclean and no unclean thing  
can inherit the kingdom of God;
- 61 But they are cast out and consigned to partake of the fruits  
of their labors or their works which have been evil,  
And they drink the dregs of a bitter cup.
- 62 And now my son, I have somewhat to say concerning  
the restoration of which has been spoken,  
For behold, some have wrested the scriptures  
and have gone far astray because of this thing;
- 63 And I perceive that thy mind hath been worried also  
concerning this thing,  
But behold, I will explain it unto thee.
- 64 I say unto thee, my son, that the plan of restoration  
is <sup>1</sup>requisite with the justice of God,  
For it is requisite that all things should be restored  
to their proper order;
- 65 Behold, it is requisite and just, according to the power  
and resurrection of Christ, that the soul of man  
should be restored to its body,  
And that every part of the body should be restored to itself.
- 66 And it is requisite with the justice of God that men  
should be judged according to their works;  
And if their works were good in this life and the desires  
of their <sup>a</sup>hearts were good, that they should also  
at the last day be restored unto that which is good;
- 67 And if his works are evil, they shall be restored  
unto him for evil.  
Therefore, all things shall be restored to its proper order—  
everything to its natural frame,  
mortality raised to immortality,

<sup>1</sup> requisite =  
necessary;  
required;  
indispensable

a A 12:110; 16:151

- corruption to incorruption,  
 Raised to endless happiness,  
 to inherit the kingdom of God,  
 Or, to endless misery, to inherit the kingdom of the devil;  
 68 The one, on one hand; the other, on the other—  
 The one, raised to happiness,  
 according to his desires of happiness,  
 or good, according to his desires of good;  
 And the other, to evil,  
 according to his desires of evil,  
 For as he has desired to do evil all the day long, even so  
 shall he have his reward of evil when the night cometh.
- 69 And so it is on the other hand—  
 If he hath repented of his sins and desired righteousness  
 until the end of his days, even so  
 shall he be rewarded unto righteousness—
- 70 These are they that are redeemed of the Lord,  
 Yea, these are they that are taken out, that are  
 delivered from that endless night of darkness.
- And thus they stand or fall,  
 For behold, they are their own judges,  
 whether to do good or do evil.
- 71 Now the decrees of God are unalterable;  
 Therefore, the way is prepared that whosoever will  
 may walk therein and be saved.
- 72 And now behold, my son, do not risk one more offense  
 against your God upon those points of doctrine  
 which ye hath hitherto risked to commit sin;
- 73 Do not suppose because it hath been spoken  
 concerning restoration that ye shall be restored  
 from sin to happiness;
- 74 Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness.
- 75 And now, my son, all men that are in a state of nature—  
 or I would say in a carnal state—are in the gall  
 of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity;  
 They are without God in the world,  
 And they have gone contrary to the nature of God,  
 Therefore, they are in a state contrary  
 to the nature of happiness.
- 76 And now behold, is the meaning of the word “restoration”

- to take a thing of a natural state and place it  
in an unnatural state, or to place it  
in a state opposite to its nature?
- 77 O my son, this is not the case,  
But the meaning of the word “restoration” is  
to bring back again evil for evil,  
or carnal for carnal,  
or devilish for devilish,  
good for that which is good,  
righteous for that which is righteous,  
just for that which is just,  
merciful for that which is merciful.
- 78 Therefore, my son, see that ye are merciful  
unto your brethren,  
Deal justly, judge righteously and do good continually;  
And if ye do all these things, then shall ye  
receive your reward—
- 79 Yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again,  
Ye shall have justice restored unto you again,  
Ye shall have a righteous judgment  
restored unto you again,
- 80 And ye shall have good rewarded unto you again;  
For that which ye doth send out shall return  
unto you again and be restored;  
Therefore, the word “restoration” more fully  
condemneth the sinner and justifieth him not at all.
- 81 And now, my son, I perceive there is somewhat more  
which doth worry your mind  
which ye cannot understand,  
Which is concerning the justice of God  
in the punishment of the sinner,  
For ye do try to suppose that it is injustice that the  
sinner should be consigned to a state of misery.
- 82 Now behold, my son, I will explain this thing unto thee.  
  
For behold, after the Lord God sent our first parents forth  
from the Garden of Eden to till the ground,  
from whence he was taken,  
Yea, He drove out the man and He placed at the east end  
of the Garden of Eden cherubim and flaming sword  
which turned every way to keep the tree of life—
- 83 Now we see that the man had become as God,

knowing good and evil,  
 And lest he should put forth his hand and take also  
 of the tree of life and eat and live forever,  
 That the Lord God placed cherubim and the flaming sword  
 that he should not partake of the fruit.

- 84 And thus we see that there was a time  
 granted unto man to repent,  
 Yea, a probationary time—  
 A time to repent and serve God.
- 85 For behold, if Adam had put forth his hand immediately  
 and partook of the tree of life,  
 He would have lived forever, according to the word  
 of God, having no space for repentance;
- 86 Yea, and also the word of God would have been void,  
 And the great plan of salvation would have been  
 frustrated.
- 87 But behold, it was appointed unto man to die;  
 Therefore, as they were cut off from the tree of life,  
 Therefore, they should be cut off from the face  
 of the earth and man became lost forever;  
 Yea, they became <sup>a</sup>fallen man.
- 88 And now we see by this that our first parents were cut off,  
 both temporally and spiritually,  
 from the presence of the Lord,  
 And thus we see they became subjects  
 to follow after their own will.
- 89 Now behold, it was not expedient that man  
 should be reclaimed from this temporal death,  
 For that would destroy the great plan of happiness;
- 90 Therefore, as the soul could never die,  
 And the fall had brought upon all mankind  
 a spiritual death as well as a temporal—  
 That is, they were cut off from the presence of the Lord—  
 Therefore, it was expedient that mankind  
 should be reclaimed from this spiritual death;
- 91 Therefore, as they had become carnal,  
 sensual and devilish by nature,  
 This <sup>b</sup>probationary state became  
 a state for them to prepare—  
 It became a preparatory state.

a H 2:58-62

b A 9:41

- 92 And now remember, my son, if it were not for  
the plan of redemption—laying it aside—  
As soon as they were dead, their souls were miserable,  
being cut off from the presence of the Lord.
- 93 And now, there was no means to reclaim men from this  
fallen state which man had brought upon himself  
because of his own disobedience;
- 94 Therefore, according to justice, the plan of redemption  
could not be brought about, only on conditions  
of repentance of men in this probationary state,  
yea, this preparatory state;  
For, except it were for these conditions, mercy could not  
take effect, except it should destroy the work of justice;
- 95 Now the work of justice could not be destroyed—  
If so, God would cease to be God.
- 96 And thus we see that all mankind were fallen;  
And they were in the grasp of justice, yea,  
the justice of God which consigned them forever  
to be cut off from His presence.
- 97 And now the plan of mercy could not be brought about,  
except an atonement should be made;  
Therefore, God Himself atoneth for the sins of the world  
to bring about the plan of mercy to appease  
the demands of justice, that God might be  
a perfect, just God and a merciful God also.
- 98 Now repentance could not come unto men except there  
were a punishment, which also was as eternal  
as the life of the soul should be,  
Affixed opposite to the plan of happiness,  
which was as eternal also as the life of the soul.
- 99 Now how could a man repent, except he should sin?  
How could he sin, if there was no law?  
How could there be a law, save there was a punishment?
- 100 Now there was a punishment affixed and a just law given  
which brought remorse of conscience unto man.
- 101 Now if there was no law given, if a man murdered,  
he should die,  
Would he be afraid he should die if he should murder?

- 102 And also, if there was no law given against sin,  
men would not be afraid to sin;
- 103 And if there was no law given, if men sinned,  
what could justice do? or mercy either?  
For they would have no claim upon the creature.
- 104 But there is a law given,  
and a punishment affixed,  
and repentance granted,  
which repentance mercy claimeth;  
Otherwise, justice claimeth the creature  
and executeth the law,  
And the law inflicteth the punishment;  
If not so, the works of justice would be destroyed  
and God would cease to be God.
- 105 But God ceaseth not to be God,  
And mercy claimeth the penitent,  
And mercy cometh because of the atonement;  
And the atonement bringeth to pass the resurrection  
of the dead,  
And the resurrection of the dead bringeth back men  
into the presence of God.
- 106 And thus they are restored into His presence,  
to be judged according to their works,  
according to the law and justice;  
For behold, justice exerciseth all his demands,  
And also mercy claimeth all which is her own;  
And thus, none but the truly penitent are saved.
- 107 What! Do ye suppose that mercy can rob justice?  
I say unto you, nay, not one whit;  
If so, God would cease to be God!
- 108 And thus God bringeth about His great and eternal  
purposes which were prepared from the foundation  
of the world.
- 109 And thus cometh about the salvation  
and the redemption of men,  
And also their destruction and misery.
- Therefore, O my son, whosoever will come, may come  
and partake of the waters of life freely;
- 110 And whosoever will not come, the same

- is not compelled to come,  
 But in the last day it shall be restored unto him  
 according to his deeds—
- 111 If he hath desired to do evil and hath  
 not repented in his days,  
 Behold, evil shall be done unto him,  
 according to the restoration of God.
- 112 And now my son, I desire that ye should  
 let these things trouble you no more,  
 And only let your sins trouble you with that trouble  
 which shall bring you down unto repentance.
- 113 O my son, I desire that ye should  
 deny the justice of God no more;
- 114 Do not endeavor to excuse yourself in the least point  
 because of your sins, by denying the justice of God,  
 But do you let the justice of God and His mercy  
 and His longsuffering have full sway in your heart,  
 But let it bring you down to the dust in humility.
- 115 And now O my son, ye are called of God  
 to preach the word unto this people.
- 116 And now, my son, go thy way;  
 Declare the word with truth and soberness,  
 that thou mayest bring souls unto repentance,  
 That the great plan of mercy may have claim upon them.
- 117 And may God grant unto you even  
 according to my word. Amen.

**20** AND NOW it came to pass that the sons of Alma  
 did go forth among the people  
 to declare the word unto them;  
 And Alma also, himself, could not rest  
 and he also went forth.

- 2 Now, we shall say no more concerning their preaching,  
 except that they preached the word and the truth  
 according to the spirit of prophecy and revelation,  
 And they preached after the holy order of God  
 by which they were called.
- 3 And now, I return to an account of the wars

<sup>1</sup> 74 BC  
A 16:255

- between the Nephites and the Lamanites in the  
<sup>1</sup>eighteenth year of the reign of the judges.
- 4 For behold, it came to pass that the  
 Zoramites became Lamanites;  
 Therefore, in the commencement of the eighteenth year,  
 the people of the Nephites saw that the Lamanites  
 were coming upon them,  
 Therefore, they made preparations for war,  
 Yea, they gathered together their armies  
 in the Land of Jershon.
- 5 And it came to pass that the Lamanites  
 came with their thousands,  
 And they came into the Land of Antionum,  
 which was the land of the Zoramites;  
 And a man by the name of Zerahemnah was their leader.
- 6 And now, as the Amalekites were of a more wicked and  
 a murderous disposition than the Lamanites were,  
 in and of themselves,  
 Therefore, Zerahemnah appointed chief captains  
 over the Lamanites,  
 And they were all the Amalekites and the Zoramites.
- 7 Now this he did that he might preserve their hatred toward  
 the Nephites, that he might bring them into subjection  
 to the accomplishment of his designs,
- 8 For behold, his designs were to stir up the Lamanites  
 to anger against the Nephites;  
 And this he did that he might usurp great power over them,  
 And also that he might gain power over the Nephites  
 by bringing them into bondage, etc.
- 9 And now the design of the Nephites was to support  
 their lands and their houses and their wives  
 and their children,  
 That they might preserve them  
 from the hands of their enemies,  
 And also that they might preserve their rights  
 and their privileges,
- 10 yea, and also their liberty,  
 That they might worship God according to their desires;  
 For they knew that if they should fall into the hands  
 of the Lamanites,

That whosoever should worship God in spirit  
and in truth, the true and the living God,  
the Lamanites would destroy.

- 11 Yea, and they also knew the extreme hatred  
of the Lamanites toward their brethren  
which were the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi,  
which were called the people of Ammon;
- 12 And they would not take up arms—  
Yea, they had entered into a covenant  
and they would not break it—  
Therefore, if they should fall into the hands  
of the Lamanites, they would be destroyed.
- 13 And the Nephites would not suffer  
that they should be destroyed,  
Therefore, they gave them lands for their inheritance;
- 14 And the people of Ammon did give unto the Nephites a  
large <sup>a</sup>portion of their substance to support their armies;
- 15 And thus the Nephites were compelled, alone, to withstand  
against the Lamanites which were a <sup>b</sup>compound  
of Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael,  
And all those which had dissented from the Nephites,  
which were Amalekites and Zoramites,  
And the descendents of the priests of Noah;
- 16 Now those descendants were as numerous,  
nearly, as were the Nephites;  
And thus the Nephites were obliged to contend  
with their brethren, even unto bloodshed.
- 17 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.
- 18 Now the leader of the Nephites—or the man  
which had been appointed to be the chief captain  
over the Nephites—  
Now the chief captain took the command of all the armies  
of the Nephites—and his name was Moroni,
- 19 and Moroni took all the command—  
and the governments of their wars;  
And he was only <sup>1</sup>twenty and five years old  
when he was appointed chief commander  
over the armies of the Nephites.

a A 15:26

b Jac 1:13  
4N 1:42  
Mn 1:8-91 74 BC  
born 99 BC  
died 56 BC  
A 30:3

- 20 And it came to pass that he met the Lamanites  
in the borders of Jershon;  
And his people were armed with swords and with  
scimitars and all manner of weapons of war.
- 21 And it came to pass that when the armies of the  
Lamanites saw that the people of Nephi,  
Or that Moroni had prepared his people  
with breastplates and with armshields,  
yea, and also shields to defend their heads,  
And also they were dressed with thick clothing—
- 22 Now the army of Zerahemnah was not prepared  
with any such thing:
- 23 They had only their swords and their scimitars,  
their bows and their arrows,  
their stones and their slings;  
But they were naked, save it were a skin  
which was girded about their loins,  
Yea, all were naked, save it were the Zoramites  
and the Amalekites;
- 24 But they were not armed with breastplates nor shields—  
Therefore, they were exceeding afraid of the armies  
of the Nephites, because of their armor,  
Notwithstanding their number being so much greater  
than the Nephites.
- 25 Behold, now it came to pass that they durst not come  
against the Nephites in the borders of Jershon;  
Therefore, they departed out of the Land of Antionum into  
the wilderness and took their journey round about in  
the wilderness, away by the head of the River Sidon,  
that they might come into the Land of Manti  
and take possession of the land,  
For they did not suppose that the armies of Moroni  
would know whither they had gone.
- 26 But it came to pass as soon as they had departed  
into the wilderness, Moroni sent spies  
into the wilderness to watch their camp,  
And Moroni, also knowing of the prophecies of Alma,  
sent certain men unto him, desiring him that he should  
inquire of the Lord whither the armies of the Nephites  
should go to defend themselves against the Lamanites.
- 27 And it came to pass that the word of the Lord

- came unto Alma,  
And Alma informed the messengers of Moroni  
that the armies of the Lamanites were  
marching round about in the wilderness,  
That they might come over into the Land of Manti,  
That they might commence an attack upon  
the more weak part of the people;
- 28 And those messengers went and delivered  
the message unto Moroni.
- 29 Now Moroni leaving a part of his army in the  
Land of Jershon, lest by any means a part  
of the Lamanites should come into that land  
and take possession of the city,  
And Moroni took the remainder part of his army  
and marched over into the Land of Manti;
- 30 And he caused that all the people in that quarter  
of the land should gather themselves together to battle  
against the Lamanites to defend their lands  
and their country, their rights and their liberties;  
Therefore they were prepared against the time  
of the coming of the Lamanites.
- 31 And it came to pass that Moroni caused that his army  
should be secreted in the valley which was near  
the bank of the River Sidon, which was on the west  
of the River Sidon in the wilderness;
- 32 And Moroni placed spies round about that he might know  
when the camp of the Lamanites should come.
- 33 And now as Moroni knew the intention  
of the Lamanites—  
That it was their intention to destroy their brethren,  
or to subject them and bring them into bondage,  
That they might establish a kingdom unto themselves  
over all the land—
- 34 And he also knowing that it was the only desire  
of the Nephites to preserve their lands  
and their liberty and their church,  
Therefore, he thought it no sin that he  
should defend them by stratagem,  
Therefore, he found, by his spies, which course  
the Lamanites were to take.
- 35 Therefore, he divided his army and brought a part over

- into the valley and concealed them on the east  
and on the south of the Hill Riplah,  
And the remainder he concealed in the west valley,  
on the west of the River Sidon, and so down  
into the borders of the Land Manti;
- 36 And thus having placed his army according to his desire,  
he was prepared to meet them.
- 37 And it came to pass that the Lamanites came up  
on the north of the hill where a part of the army  
of Moroni was concealed.
- 38 And it came to pass that as the Lamanites had passed  
the Hill Riplah and came into the valley  
and began to cross the River Sidon,  
The army, which was concealed on the south of the hill,  
who was led by a man whose name was Lehi,  
And he led his army forth and encircled the Lamanites  
about on the east in their rear.
- 39 And it came to pass that the Lamanites, when they saw the  
Nephites coming upon them in their rear, turned them  
about and began to contend with the army of Lehi;  
And the work of death commenced on both sides,
- 40 But it was more dreadful on the part of the Lamanites,  
For their nakedness was exposed to the heavy blows of  
the Nephites with their swords and their scimitars  
which brought death almost at every stroke,  
While on the other hand, there was now and then  
a man fell among the Nephites by their wounds  
and the loss of blood,
- 41 They being shielded from the more vital parts of the  
body—or the more vital parts of the body being shielded  
from the strokes of the Lamanites by their breastplates  
and their armshields and their headplates;  
And thus the Nephites did carry on the work  
of death among the Lamanites.
- 42 And it came to pass that the Lamanites became frightened  
because of the great destruction among them, even  
until they began to flee toward the River Sidon;
- 43 And they were pursued by Lehi and his men,  
And they were driven by Lehi into the waters of Sidon,  
And they crossed the waters of Sidon;
- 44 And Lehi retained his armies upon the bank

of the River Sidon, that they should not cross.

- 45 And it came to pass that Moroni and his army  
met the army of the Lamanites in the valley  
on the other side of the River Sidon.
- And it came to pass that Moroni and his army  
began to fall upon them and to slay them.
- 46 And it came to pass that the Lamanites did flee again  
before them, toward the Land of Manti,  
And they were met again by the armies of Moroni.
- 47 Now in this case the Lamanites did fight exceedingly,  
Yea, never had the Lamanites been known to have fought  
with such exceeding great strength and courage—  
No, not even from the beginning;
- 48 And they were inspired by the Zoramites and the  
Amalekites, which were their chief captains and leaders,  
And by Zerahemnah who was their chief captain,  
or their chief leader and commander;
- 49 Yea, they did fight like dragons and many of the Nephites  
were slain by their hands—  
Yea, for they did smite in two many of their headplates,  
And they did pierce many of their breastplates,  
And they did smite off many of their arms;  
And thus the Lamanites did smite in their fierce anger.
- 50 Nevertheless, the Nephites were inspired by a better cause,  
For they were not fighting for monarchy nor power,  
But they were fighting for their homes and their liberties,  
their wives and their children and their all,  
yea, for their rights of worship and their church;
- 51 And they were doing that which they felt it was the duty  
which they owed to their God,  
For the Lord had said unto them, and also  
unto their fathers that,  
<sup>a</sup>“Inasmuch as ye are not guilty of the first offense,  
neither the second,  
Ye shall not suffer yourselves to be slain  
by the hands of your enemies.”
- 52 And again, the Lord hath said that, “Ye shall defend  
your families even unto bloodshed,”  
Therefore, for this cause were the Nephites  
contending with the Lamanites—

a A 21:135-138

- To defend themselves and their families and their lands,  
their country and their rights and their religion.
- 53 And it came to pass that when the men of Moroni  
saw the fierceness and the anger of the Lamanites,  
they were about to shrink and flee from them;
- 54 And Moroni, perceiving their intent, sent forth  
and inspired their hearts with these thoughts—  
yea, the thoughts of their lands, their liberty,  
yea, their freedom from bondage.
- 55 And it came to pass that they turned upon the Lamanites,  
And they cried with one voice unto the Lord their God  
for their liberty and their freedom from bondage;
- 56 And they began to stand against the Lamanites with power;  
And in the selfsame hour that they cried unto the Lord for  
their freedom, the Lamanites began to flee before them,  
And they fled even to the waters of Sidon.
- 57 Now the Lamanites were more numerous, yea,  
by more than double the number of the Nephites;  
Nevertheless, they were driven insomuch that they  
were gathered together in one body in the valley  
upon the bank by the River Sidon;
- 58 Therefore, the armies of Moroni encircled them about,  
yea, even on both sides of the river,  
For behold, on the east were the men of Lehi;
- 59 Therefore, when Zerahemnah saw the men of Lehi  
on the east of the River Sidon and the armies of Moroni  
on the west of the River Sidon, that they  
were encircled about by the Nephites,  
They were struck with terror.
- 60 Now Moroni, when he saw their terror, he commanded  
his men that they should stop shedding their blood.
- 61 And it came to pass that they did stop  
and withdrew a pace from them;
- 62 And Moroni said unto Zerahemnah:  
“Behold, Zerahemnah, that we do not desire  
to be men of blood;
- 63 Ye know that ye are in our hands,  
yet we do not desire to slay you.
- 64 “Behold, we have not come out to battle against you,  
that we might shed your blood for power,

- Neither do we desire to bring anyone  
to the yoke of bondage;
- 65 But this is the very cause for which  
ye have come against us,  
Yea, and ye are angry with us because of our religion.
- 66 “But now, ye behold that the Lord is with us,  
And ye behold that He hath delivered you into our hands.
- 67 “And now I would that ye should understand  
that this is done unto us because of our religion  
and our faith in Christ.
- “And now ye see that ye cannot destroy this our faith;  
68 Now ye see that this is the true faith of God,  
Yea, ye see that God will support and keep and  
preserve us, so long as we are faithful unto Him  
and unto our faith and our religion;
- 69 And never will the Lord suffer that we shall be destroyed,  
except we should fall into transgression  
and deny our faith.
- 70 “And now, Zerahemnah, I command you in the name  
of that all-powerful God who hath strengthened  
our arms that we have gained power over you—  
By our faith,  
By our religion,  
And by our rights of worship,  
And by our church,  
And by the sacred support which we owe  
to our wives and our children,  
By that liberty which binds us  
to our lands and our country,  
Yea, and also by the maintenance of the sacred word  
of God to which we owe all our happiness,
- 71 And by all that is most dear unto us;  
Yea, and this is not all—  
I command you by all the desires which ye have for life  
that ye deliver up your weapons of war unto us,  
And we will seek not your blood, but we will spare  
your lives if ye will go your way and come not again  
to war against us.
- 72 “And now if ye do not this, behold, ye are in our hands,  
And I will command my men that they shall fall upon you

- and inflict the wounds of death in your bodies,  
that ye may become extinct;
- 73 And then we will see who shall have power  
over this people,  
Yea, we will see who shall be brought into bondage.”
- 74 And now it came to pass that when Zerahemnah  
heard these sayings,  
He came forth and delivered up his sword and his  
scimitar and his bow into the hands of Moroni  
and saith unto him:
- 75 “Behold, here are our weapons of war—  
We will deliver them up unto you and we will not suffer  
ourselves to take an oath unto you, which we know  
that we shall break, and also our children;  
But take our weapons of war and suffer  
that we may depart into the wilderness,  
Otherwise we will retain our swords  
and we will perish or conquer.
- 76 “Behold, we are not of your faith;  
We do not believe that it is God that hath  
delivered us into your hands,  
But we believe it is your cunning that hath  
preserved you from our swords;
- 77 Behold, it is your breastplates and your shields  
that hath preserved you.”
- 78 And now, when Zerahemnah had made  
an end of speaking these words,  
Moroni returned the sword and the weapons of war  
which he had received unto Zerahemnah, saying:  
“Behold, we will end the conflict;
- 79 Now I cannot retain the words which I have spoken,  
Therefore, as the Lord liveth, ye shall not depart  
except ye depart with an oath that ye will  
not return again against us to war;
- 80 Now as ye are in our hands, we will spill your blood  
upon the ground,  
Or ye shall submit to the conditions  
to which I have proposed.”
- 81 And now when Moroni had said these words,  
Zerahemnah retained his sword,  
And he was angry with Moroni and he rushed forward

- that he might slay Moroni;
- 82 But as he raised his sword, behold,  
one of Moroni's soldiers smote it  
even to the earth and it broke by the hilt,  
And he also smote Zerahemnah that he took off  
his scalp and it fell to the earth;
- 83 And Zerahemnah withdrew from before them  
into the midst of his soldiers.
- 84 And it came to pass that the soldier which stood by, which  
smote off the scalp of Zerahemnah, took up the scalp  
from off the ground by the hair and laid it upon the  
point of his sword and stretched it forth unto them,  
saying unto them with a loud voice—saying:
- 85 “Even as this scalp hath fallen to the earth,  
which is the scalp of your chief,  
So shall ye fall to the earth, except ye will deliver up your  
weapons of war and depart with a covenant of peace.”
- 86 Now there were many when they heard these words  
and saw the scalp which was upon the sword,  
they were struck with fear,  
And many came forth and threw down their weapons  
of war at the feet of Moroni and entered into  
a covenant of peace;
- 87 And as many as entered into a <sup>a</sup>covenant,  
they suffered to depart into the wilderness.
- 88 Now it came to pass that Zerahemnah  
was exceeding wroth,  
And he did stir up the remainder of his soldiers to anger,  
to contend more powerfully against the Nephites.
- 89 And now Moroni was angry because of the  
stubbornness of the Lamanites,  
Therefore, he commanded his people that they  
should fall upon them and slay them.
- 90 And it came to pass that they began to slay them,  
Yea, and the Lamanites did contend with their swords  
and their might;
- 91 But behold, their naked skins and their bare heads  
were exposed to the sharp swords of the Nephites,  
Yea, behold, they were pierced and smitten,  
92 yea, and did fall exceeding fast before the swords

a 3N 2:87

of the Nephites;  
And they began to be swept down, even as  
the soldier of Moroni had prophesied.

93 Now Zerahemnah, when he saw that they were all about  
to be destroyed, he cried mightily unto Moroni,  
Promising that he would covenant, and also his people  
with them, if they would spare the remainder  
of their lives, that they never would  
come to war again against them.

94 And it came to pass that Moroni caused that the work  
of death should cease again among the people.

95 And it came to pass that he took the weapons of war  
from the Lamanites;  
And after they had entered into a covenant with him of  
peace, they were suffered to depart into the wilderness.

96 Now, the number of their dead were not numbered,  
because of the greatness of the number,  
Yea, the number of their dead were exceeding great,  
both on the Nephites and on the Lamanites.

a A 1:101

97 And it came to pass that they did cast their dead  
into the waters of Sidon,  
And they have gone forth and are <sup>a</sup>buried  
in the depths of the sea;

98 And the armies of the Nephites, or of Moroni, returned  
and came to their houses and their lands.

1 began A 16:255

99 And thus ended the <sup>1</sup>eighteenth year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi.

100 And thus ended the record of Alma which was written  
upon the plates of Nephi.

**21** *The account of the people of Nephi and their wars and  
dissensions in the days of Helaman, according to the  
record of Helaman which he kept in his days.*

1 **BEHOLD, NOW** it came to pass that the people of Nephi  
were exceedingly rejoiced because the Lord had again  
delivered them out of the hands of their enemies;

2 Therefore, they gave thanks unto the Lord their God,

Yea, and they did fast much and pray much,  
And they did worship God with exceeding great joy.

- 3 And it came to pass in the <sup>1</sup>nineteenth year  
of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi,  
that Alma came unto his son Helaman  
and saith unto him:

“Believest thou the words which I spake unto thee  
concerning those records which have been kept?”

- 4 And Helaman saith unto him:  
“Yea, I believe.”

- 5 And Alma saith again:  
“Believest thou in Jesus Christ, which shall come?”

And he saith:  
“Yea, I believe all the words which thou hast spoken.”

- 6 And Alma saith unto him again:  
“Will ye keep my commandments?”

And he saith:  
“Yea, I will keep thy commandments with all my heart.”

- 7 Then Alma saith unto him:  
“Blessed art thou, and *the* Lord  
shall prosper thee in this land.

- 8 “But behold, I have somewhat to prophesy unto thee,  
But what I prophesy unto thee, ye shall not make known,  
Yea, what I prophesy unto thee shall not be made known,  
even until the prophecy is fulfilled;  
Therefore, write the words which I shall say.”

- 9 And these are the words:  
“Behold, I perceive that this very people, the Nephites,  
according to the spirit of revelation which is in me,  
In four hundred years from the time that Jesus Christ shall  
manifest Himself unto them, shall <sup>a</sup>dwindle in unbelief.

- 10 “Yea, and then shall they see wars and pestilences,  
yea, famines and bloodshed, even until the  
people of Nephi shall become extinct;

- 11 Yea, and this because they shall dwindle in unbelief  
and fall into the works of darkness and lasciviousness  
and all manner of iniquities.

1 73 BC  
ends A 21:185

a 1N 3:128-130  
H 5:10-13  
3N 13:9-10  
Mi 9:3-5

- 12 “Yea, I say unto you that because they shall sin against so great light and knowledge, Yea, I say unto you that from that day, even the fourth generation shall not all pass away before this great iniquity shall come.
- 13 “And when that great day cometh, behold, the time very soon cometh that those which are now— Or the seed of those which are now numbered among the people of the Nephites—shall no more be numbered among the people of Nephi;
- 14 But whosoever remaineth and is not destroyed in that great and dreadful day shall be <sup>a</sup>numbered among the Lamanites and shall become like unto them— All, save it be a few which shall be called the disciples of the Lord,
- 15 And them shall the Lamanites pursue, even until they shall become <sup>b</sup>extinct; And now, because of iniquity, this prophecy shall be fulfilled.”
- 16 And now it came to pass that after Alma had said these things to Helaman, he blessed him, and also his other sons, And he also blessed the earth for the righteous’ sake.
- 17 And he said:  
“Thus saith the Lord God:  
‘Cursed shall be the land, yea, this land, unto every nation, kindred, tongue and people, unto destruction, which do wickedly, when they are fully ripe.’
- 18 “And as I have said, so shall it be;  
For this is the cursing and the blessing of God upon the land,  
For the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.”
- 19 And now when Alma had said these words, he blessed the church,  
Yea, all those which should stand fast in the faith from that time henceforth.
- 20 And when Alma had done this, he departed out of the Land of Zarahemla as if to go into the Land of Melek.

a Mi 9:25

b Mn 4:2

And it came to pass that he was never heard of more;  
As to his death or burial, we know not of.

21 Behold, this we know—that he was a righteous man,  
And the saying went abroad in the church  
that he was taken up by the Spirit,  
Or buried by the hand of the Lord, even as Moses.

22 But behold, the scripture saith the Lord took Moses  
unto Himself,  
And we suppose that He hath also received Alma  
in the spirit unto Himself,  
Therefore, for this cause we know nothing  
concerning his death and burial.

23 And now it came to pass in the commencement of the  
nineteenth year of the reign of the judges over  
the people of Nephi that Helaman went forth  
among the people to declare the word unto them;

24 For behold, because of their wars with the Lamanites,  
and the many little dissensions and disturbances  
which had been among the people,  
It became expedient that the word of God  
should be declared among them,  
Yea, and that a regulation should be made  
throughout the church;

25 Therefore, Helaman and his brethren went forth  
to establish the church again in all the land,  
Yea, in every city throughout all the land  
which was possessed by the people of Nephi.

26 And it came to pass that they did appoint priests and  
teachers throughout all the land, over all the churches.

27 And now it came to pass that after Helaman and his  
brethren had appointed priests and teachers over the  
churches, that there arose a dissension among them,  
And they would not give heed to the words of Helaman  
and his brethren,

28 But they grew proud, being lifted up in their hearts  
because of their exceeding great riches;  
Therefore, they grew rich in their own eyes and would not  
give heed to their words to walk uprightly before God.

29 And it came to pass that as many as would not hearken

- to the words of Helaman and his brethren  
were gathered together against their brethren;
- 30 And now behold, they were exceeding wroth, insomuch  
that they were determined to slay them.
- 31 Now the leader of those which were wroth against  
their brethren was a large and a strong man,  
And his name was Amalickiah;
- 32 And Amalickiah was desirous to be a king,  
And those people which were wroth were  
also desirous that he should be their king;  
And they were—the greater part of them—  
the lower judges of the land,  
And they were seeking for power;
- 33 And they had been led by the flatteries of Amalickiah, that  
if they would support him and establish him to be their  
king, that he would make them rulers over the people.
- 34 Thus they were led away by Amalickiah to dissensions,  
notwithstanding the preaching of Helaman  
and his brethren,  
Yea, notwithstanding their exceeding great care over the  
church, for they were high priests over the church;
- 35 And there were many in the church which believed  
in the flattering words of Amalickiah,  
Therefore they dissented, even from the church.
- 36 And thus were the affairs of the people of Nephi  
exceeding precarious and dangerous,  
Notwithstanding their great victory  
which they had had over the Lamanites,  
And their great rejoicings which they had had because  
of their delivery by the hands of the Lord.
- 37 Thus we see how quick the children of men  
doth forget the Lord their God,  
Yea, how quick to do iniquity and to be led away  
by the evil one.
- Yea, and we also see the great wickedness one very wicked  
man can cause to take place among the children of men.
- 38 Yea, we see that Amalickiah, because he was a man  
of cunning devices and a man of many flattering words,  
That he led away the hearts of many people  
to do wickedly,

- 39 Yea, and to seek to destroy the church of God  
and to destroy the foundation of liberty  
which God had granted unto them,  
Or which blessing God had sent upon  
the face of the land for the righteous' sake.
- 40 And now it came to pass that when Moroni,  
which was the chief commander of the armies  
of the Nephites, had heard of these dissensions,  
he was angry with Amalickiah.
- 41 And it came to pass that he rent his coat,  
And he took a piece thereof and wrote upon it—  
“In memory of our God,  
our religion and freedom and our peace,  
our wives and our children”—  
And he fastened it upon the end of a pole thereof;
- 42 And he fastened on his headplate and his breastplate  
and his shields and girded on his armor about his loins,  
And he took the pole which had on the end thereof  
his rent coat and he called it the title of liberty.
- 43 And he bowed himself to the earth,  
And he prayed mightily unto his God for the blessings of  
liberty to rest upon his brethren, so long as there should  
a band of <sup>a</sup>Christians remain to possess the land—
- 44 For thus were all the true believers of Christ which  
belonged to the church of God called by those  
who did not belong to the church,  
And those who did belong to the church were faithful,
- 45 Yea, all those who were true believers in Christ  
took upon them gladly the <sup>b</sup>name of Christ,  
or Christians, as they were called, because  
of their belief in Christ, which should come—  
And therefore, at this time, Moroni prayed that  
the cause of the Christians and the freedom  
of the land might be favored.
- 46 And it came to pass that when he had  
poured out his soul to God,  
He gave all the land which was south  
of the Land Desolation,  
Yea, and in fine all the land, both on the north and  
on the south, a chosen land and the land of liberty.

a A 21:131

b Mos 3:11

- 47 And he saith:  
“Surely God shall not suffer that we who are despised  
because we take upon us the name of Christ  
shall be trodden down and destroyed, until we  
bring it upon us by our own transgressions.”
- 48 And when Moroni had said these words, he went forth  
among the people, waving the rent of his garment  
in the air that all might see the writing  
which he had written upon the rent,  
And crying with a loud voice, saying:
- 49 “Behold, whosoever will maintain this title upon the land,  
Let them come forth in the strength of the Lord and enter  
into a covenant that they will maintain their rights and  
their religion, that the Lord God may bless them.”
- 50 And it came to pass that when Moroni  
had proclaimed these words,  
Behold, the people came running together with their  
armors girded about their loins, rending their garments  
in token, or as a covenant, that they  
would not forsake the Lord their God—
- 51 Or, in other words, if they should transgress  
the commandments of God,  
Or fall into transgression and be ashamed  
to take upon them the name of Christ,  
The Lord should rend them  
even as they had rent their garments.
- 52 Now this was the covenant which they made,  
And they cast their garments at the feet of Moroni, saying:  
“We covenant with our God that we shall be destroyed,  
even as our brethren in the Land Northward,  
if we shall fall into transgression;
- 53 Yea, He may cast us at the feet of our enemies, even as  
we have cast our garments at thy feet, to be trodden  
underfoot, if we should fall into transgression.”
- 54 Moroni saith unto them:  
“Behold, we are a remnant of the seed of Jacob,  
Yea, we are a remnant of the seed of Joseph whose coat  
was rent by his brethren into many pieces;
- 55 Yea, and now behold, let us remember  
to keep the commandments of God,  
Or our garments shall be rent by our brethren

- and we be cast into prison or be sold or be slain;  
 Yea, let us preserve our liberty, as a remnant of Joseph;
- 56 Yea, let us remember the words of Jacob before his death,  
 For behold, he saw that a part of the remnant of the coat  
 of Joseph was preserved and had not decayed.
- 57 “And he saith:  
 ‘Even as this <sup>a</sup>remnant of garment of my son  
 hath been <sup>b</sup>preserved,  
 So shall a remnant of the seed of my son be preserved  
 by the hand of God and be taken unto Himself,  
 While the remainder of the seed of Joseph shall perish,  
 even as the remnant of his garment.
- 58 ‘Now behold, this giveth my soul sorrow;  
 Nevertheless, my soul hath joy in my son because that  
 part of his seed which shall be taken unto God.’
- 59 “Now behold, this was the language of Jacob;  
 60 And now, who knoweth but what the remnant of the seed  
 of Joseph which shall perish as his garment  
 are those which have dissented from us,  
 Yea, and even it shall be us, if we do not stand fast  
 in the faith of Christ.”
- 61 And now it came to pass that when Moroni had said these  
 words, he went forth, and also sent forth in all the parts  
 of the land where there were dissensions,  
 And gathered together all the people which were desirous  
 to maintain their liberty to stand against Amalickiah  
 and those which had dissented,  
 which were called Amalickiahites.
- 62 And it came to pass that when Amalickiah saw  
 that the people of Moroni were more numerous  
 than the Amalickiahites,  
 And he also saw that his people were doubtful concerning  
 the justice of the cause in which they had undertaken,  
 Therefore, fearing that he should not gain the point,  
 he took those of his people which would  
 and departed into the Land of Nephi.
- 63 Now Moroni thought it was not expedient that  
 the Lamanites should have any more strength;  
 Therefore, he thought to cut off the people of Amalickiah,  
 or to take them and bring them back

a 3N 2:106-109

b 2N 2:31

- and put Amalickiah to death;
- 64 Yea, for he knew that they would stir up the Lamanites to anger against them and cause them to come down to battle against them, And this he knew that Amalickiah would do, that he might obtain his purposes;
- 65 Therefore, Moroni thought it was expedient that he should take his armies which had gathered themselves together and armed themselves and entered into a covenant to keep the peace.
- 66 And it came to pass that he took his army and marched out with his <sup>a</sup>tents into the wilderness to cut off the course of Amalickiah in the wilderness.
- a A 21:88
- 67 And it came to pass that he did according to his desires, And marched forth into the wilderness and headed the armies of Amalickiah.
- 68 And it came to pass that Amalickiah fled with a small number of his men, And the remainder were delivered up into the hands of Moroni and were taken back into the Land of Zarahemla.
- 69 Now Moroni being a man which was appointed by the chief judges and the voice of the people, Therefore, he had power to do according to his will with the armies of the Nephites, to establish and to exercise authority over them.
- 70 And it came to pass that whomsoever of the Amalickiahites that would not enter into a covenant to support the cause of freedom that they might maintain a free government, he caused to be <sup>b</sup>put to death; And there was but few which denied the covenant of freedom.
- b 3N 2:88
- 71 And it came to pass also that he caused the title of liberty to be hoisted upon every tower which was in all the land which was possessed by the Nephites.
- And thus Moroni planted the standard of liberty among the Nephites,
- 72 And they began to have peace again in the land.

- And thus they did maintain peace in the land, until nearly  
the end of the nineteenth year of the reign of the judges;
- 73 And Helaman and the high priests did also maintain order  
in the church,  
Yea, even for the space of four years did they have  
much peace and rejoicing in the church.
- 74 And it came to pass that there were many who died,  
firmly believing that their souls were redeemed  
by the Lord Jesus Christ;  
Thus they went out of the world rejoicing.
- 75 And there were some who died with fevers, which at some  
seasons of the year was very frequent in the land—
- 76 But not so much so with fevers, because of the excellent  
qualities of the many plants and roots which God had  
prepared to remove the cause of diseases to which  
man was susceptible by the nature of the climate—
- 77 But there were many who died with old age.
- And those who died in the faith of Christ are happy  
in Him, as we must needs suppose.
- 78 Now I will return in our record to Amalickiah and those  
which had fled with him into the wilderness.
- For behold, he had taken those which went with him and  
went up into the Land of Nephi, among the Lamanites,  
And did stir up the Lamanites to anger  
against the people of Nephi,  
Insomuch that the king of the Lamanites sent a proclamation  
throughout all his land, among all his people,  
that they should gather themselves together again  
to go to battle against the Nephites.
- 79 And it came to pass that when the proclamation had gone  
forth among them, they were exceeding afraid—  
Yea, they feared to displease the king,  
And they also feared to go to battle against the Nephites,  
lest they should lose their lives.
- 80 And it came to pass that they would not, or the more part  
of them would not obey the commandment of the king.
- 81 And now it came to pass that the king was wroth  
because of their disobedience;

- Therefore, he gave Amalickiah the command of that part  
of his army which was obedient unto his commands,  
And commanded him that he should go forth  
and compel them to arms.
- 82 Now behold, this was the desire of Amalickiah;  
For he being a very subtle man to do evil,  
Therefore, he laid the plan in his heart  
to dethrone the king of the Lamanites.
- 83 And now he had got the command of those parts  
of the Lamanites which were in favor of the king,  
And he sought to gain favor of those  
which were not obedient.
- 84 Therefore, he went forward to the place which was called  
Oneidah—for thither had all the Lamanites fled—  
For they discovered the army coming and they  
supposed that they were coming to destroy them,  
Therefore, they fled to Oneidah to the place of arms.
- 85 And they had appointed a man to be a king  
and a leader over them,  
Being fixed in their minds with a determined resolution  
that they would not be subjected  
to go against the Nephites.
- 86 And it came to pass that they had gathered themselves  
together upon the top of the mount, which  
was called Antipas, in preparation to battle.
- 87 Now it was not Amalickiah's intention to give them battle,  
according to the commandments of the king,  
But behold, it was his intention to gain favor  
with the armies of the Lamanites, that he might  
place himself at their head and dethrone the king  
and take possession of the kingdom.
- 88 And behold, it came to pass that he caused his army  
to pitch their tents in the valley which was near  
the Mount Antipas.
- 89 And it came to pass that when it was night, he sent  
a secret embassy into the Mount Antipas,  
Desiring that the leader of those which were upon the  
mount, whose name was Lehonti, that he

should come down to the foot of the mount,  
for he desired to speak with him.

90 And it came to pass that when Lehonti received the message,  
he durst not go down to the foot of the mount.

91 And it came to pass that Amalickiah sent again  
the second time, desiring him to come down.

And it came to pass that Lehonti would not;  
And he sent again the third time.

92 And it came to pass that when Amalickiah found that  
he could not get Lehonti to come down off from the  
mount, he went up into the mount,  
nearly to Lehonti's camp;  
And he sent again the fourth time his message  
unto Lehonti, desiring that he would come down  
and that he would bring his guards with him.

93 And it came to pass that when Lehonti had come down  
with his guards to Amalickiah,  
That Amalickiah desired him to come down with his army  
in the nighttime and surround those men in their camps  
over whom the king had given him command,  
And that he would deliver them up into Lehonti's hands  
if he would make him, Amalickiah, a second leader  
over the whole army.

94 And it came to pass that Lehonti came down with his men  
and surrounded the men of Amalickiah,  
So that before they awoke at the dawn of the day,  
they were surrounded by the armies of Lehonti.

95 And it came to pass that when they saw  
that they were surrounded,  
They pled with Amalickiah that he would suffer them  
to fall in with their brethren, that they  
might not be destroyed.

96 Now this was the very thing which Amalickiah desired.

And it came to pass that he delivered his men,  
contrary to the commands of the king;

97 Now this was the thing that Amalickiah desired, that he  
might accomplish his designs in dethroning the king.

- 98 Now it was the custom among the Lamanites,  
if their chief leader was killed, to appoint  
the second leader to be their chief leader.
- 99 And it came to pass that Amalickiah caused  
that one of his servants should administer  
poison by degrees to Lehonti, that he died;
- 100 Now when Lehonti was dead, the Lamanites  
appointed Amalickiah to be their leader  
and their chief commander.
- 101 And it came to pass that Amalickiah marched with his  
armies—for he had gained his desires—to the Land of  
Nephi, to the City of Nephi, which was the chief city;
- 102 And the king came out to meet him with his guards,  
For he supposed that Amalickiah had fulfilled his  
commands and that Amalickiah had gathered together so  
great an army for to go against the Nephites to battle.
- 103 But behold, as the king came out to meet him,  
Amalickiah caused that his servants  
should go forth to meet the king;
- 104 And they went forth and bowed themselves before the  
king, as if to reverence him because of his greatness.
- 105 And it came to pass that the king  
put forth his hand to raise them,  
As was the custom with the Lamanites and a token of  
peace, which custom they had taken from the Nephites.
- 106 And it came to pass that when he had raised  
the first from the ground,  
Behold, he stabbed the king to the heart  
and he fell to the earth.
- 107 Now the servants of the king fled,  
And the servants of Amalickiah raised a cry, saying:  
“Behold, the servants of the king have stabbed him  
to the heart!  
And he has fallen and they have fled;  
Behold, come and see.”
- 108 And it came to pass that Amalickiah commanded  
that his armies should march forth and see  
what had happened to the king,
- 109 And when they had come to the spot and found the king

lying in his gore, Amalickiah pretended  
to be wroth and said:

“Whosoever loved the king, let him go forth  
and pursue his servants that they may be slain.”

110 And it came to pass that when all they which loved  
the king, when they heard these words, came forth  
and pursued after the servants of the king.

111 Now when the servants of the king  
saw an army pursuing after them,  
They were frightened again,  
and fled into the wilderness,  
and came over into the Land of Zarahemla,  
and joined the people of Ammon;

112 And the army which pursued after them returned,  
having pursued after them in vain,  
And thus Amalickiah, by his fraud,  
gained the hearts of the people.

113 And it came to pass on the morrow, he entered the City  
Nephi with his armies and took possession of the city.

114 And now it came to pass that the queen,  
when she had heard that the king was slain—  
For Amalickiah had sent an embassy to the queen,  
informing her that the king had been slain by his  
servants, that he had pursued them with his army,  
but it was in vain, and they had made their escape—

115 Therefore, when the queen had received this message,  
she sent unto Amalickiah desiring him  
that he would spare the people of the city,  
And she also desired him that he should come in unto her,  
And she also desired him that he should bring witnesses  
with him to testify concerning the death of the king.

116 And it came to pass that Amalickiah took the same servant  
that slew the king, and also they which were with him,  
And went in unto the queen, unto the place where she sat,

117 And they all testified unto her that the king  
was slain by his own servants,  
And they said also, “They have fled;  
Does not this testify against them?”

118 And thus they satisfied the queen  
concerning the death of the king.

119 And it came to pass that Amalickiah sought the favor  
of the queen and took her unto him to wife.

And thus by his fraud and by the assistance of his  
cunning servants, he obtained the kingdom,

120 Yea, he was acknowledged king throughout all the land,  
among all the people of the Lamanites,  
Which were composed of the Lamanites and the  
Lemuelites and the Ishmaelites and all the  
dissenters of the Nephites, from the reign  
of Nephi down to the present time.

a A 14:58

121 Now these <sup>a</sup>dissenters having the same instruction  
and the same information of the Nephites,  
Yea, having been instructed in the same knowledge  
of the Lord,

Nevertheless, it is strange to relate,  
not long after their dissensions,

They became more hardened and impenitent and more  
wild, wicked and ferocious than the Lamanites—

122 Drinking in with the traditions of the Lamanites,  
Giving way to indolence and all manner of lasciviousness,  
Yea, entirely forgetting the Lord their God.

123 And now it came to pass that as soon as Amalickiah had  
obtained the kingdom, he began to inspire the hearts  
of the Lamanites against the people of Nephi,  
Yea, he did appoint men to speak unto the Lamanites  
from their towers against the Nephites.

124 And thus he did inspire their hearts against the Nephites  
insomuch, that in the latter end of the nineteenth year  
of the reign of the judges—

He having accomplished his designs thus far,

Yea, having been made king over the Lamanites—

He sought also to reign over all the land,

125 Yea, and all the people which were in the land,  
the Nephites as well as the Lamanites.

Therefore, he had accomplished his design,

For he had hardened the hearts of the Lamanites,  
and blinded their minds,

and stirred them up to anger,

Insomuch that he had gathered together a numerous host  
to go to battle against the Nephites;

For he was determined because of the greatness of the number of his people to overpower the Nephites and to bring them into bondage.

- 126 And thus he did appoint chief captains of the Zoramites, They being the most acquainted with the strength of the Nephites and their places of resort and the weakest parts of their cities; Therefore, he appointed them to be chief captains over his armies.
- 127 And it came to pass that they took their camp and moved forth toward the Land of Zarahemla in the wilderness.
- 128 Now it came to pass that while Amalickiah had thus been obtaining power by fraud and deceit, Moroni, on the other hand, had been a preparing the minds of the people to be faithful unto the Lord their God.
- 129 Yea, he had been strengthening the armies of the Nephites and erecting small <sup>a</sup>forts, or places of resort, Throwing up banks of earth round about to encircle his armies, and also building walls of stone to encircle them about, Round about their cities and the borders of their lands, yea, all round about the land,
- 130 And in their weakest fortifications, he did place the greater number of men; And thus he did fortify and strengthen the land which was possessed by the Nephites.
- 131 And thus he was preparing to support their liberty, their lands, their wives and their children and their peace, And that they might live unto the Lord their God, And that they might maintain that which was called by their enemies the cause of <sup>b</sup>Christians.
- 132 And Moroni was a strong and a mighty man— He was a man of a perfect understanding, Yea, a man that did not delight in bloodshed, A man whose soul did joy in the liberty and the freedom of his country and his brethren from bondage and slavery,
- 133 Yea, a man whose heart did swell with thanksgiving to his God for the many privileges and blessings which He bestowed upon His people,

a A 22:1-4

b A 21:43

- A man who did labor exceedingly for the welfare  
and safety of his people,
- 134 Yea, and he was a man who was firm  
in the faith of Christ—  
And he had sworn with an oath to defend his people,  
his rights and his country and his religion,  
even to the loss of his blood.
- 135 Now the Nephites were taught to defend themselves  
against their enemies, even to the shedding  
of blood if it were necessary;
- 136 Yea, and they were also taught never to give an offense,  
Yea, and never to raise the sword, except it were against  
an enemy, except it were to preserve their lives.
- 137 And this was their faith—  
That by so doing, God would prosper them in the land,  
Or in other words, if they were faithful in keeping  
the commandments of God, that He would  
prosper them in the land,  
Yea, warn them to flee or to prepare for war,  
according to their danger,
- 138 And also that God would make it known unto them  
whither they should go to defend themselves  
against their enemies,  
And by so doing the Lord would deliver them.
- And this was the faith of Moroni,
- 139 And his heart did glory in it—  
Not in the shedding of blood, but in doing good—  
in preserving his people,  
yea, in keeping the commandments of God,  
yea, and resisting iniquity.
- 140 Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, if all men had been  
and were and ever would be like unto Moroni,  
Behold, the very powers of hell  
would have been shaken forever,  
Yea, the devil would never have *any* power  
over the hearts of the children of men;
- 141 Behold, he was a man like unto Ammon,  
the son of Mosiah,  
Yea, and even the other sons of Mosiah,  
Yea, and also Alma and his sons,  
for they were all men of God.

- 142 Now behold, Helaman and his brethren were no less  
serviceable unto the people than was Moroni,  
For they did preach the word of God,  
And they did baptize unto repentance all men  
whosoever would hearken unto their words.
- 143 And thus they went forth;  
And the people did humble themselves  
because of their words, insomuch  
that they were highly favored of the Lord.
- And thus they were free from wars and contentions  
among themselves, yea, even for the space of four years.
- 144 But, as I have said, in the latter end of the nineteenth year,  
notwithstanding their peace amongst themselves,  
They were compelled reluctantly to contend  
with their brethren the Lamanites;
- 145 Yea, and in fine, their wars never did cease for the space  
of many years with the Lamanites,  
notwithstanding their much reluctance.
- 146 Now they were sorry to take up arms  
against the Lamanites because they  
did not delight in the shedding of blood;  
Yea, and this was not all—  
They were sorry to be the means of sending so many  
of their brethren out of this world into an  
eternal world unprepared to meet their God;
- 147 Nevertheless, they could not suffer to lay down their lives,  
that their wives and their children should be massacred  
by the barbarous cruelty of those  
who were once their brethren,  
Yea, and had dissented from their church,  
And had left them and had gone to destroy them  
by joining the Lamanites;
- 148 Yea, they could not bear that their brethren should rejoice  
over the blood of the Nephites so long as there were  
any who should keep the commandments of God,  
For the promises of the Lord were if they should keep  
His commandments, they should prosper in the land.
- 149 And now it came to pass in the eleventh month of the  
nineteenth year, on the tenth day of the month,  
The armies of the Lamanites were seen approaching

a A 11:14-17

<sup>1</sup> disappointment =  
frustration,  
an obsolete  
meaning today

- toward the Land of Ammonihah;  
 150 And behold, the city had been rebuilt;  
 And Moroni had stationed an army  
 by the borders of the city,  
 And they had cast up dirt round about to shield them  
 from the arrows and the stones of the Lamanites,  
 For behold, they fought with stones and with arrows.
- 151 Behold, I said that the City of Ammonihah had been rebuilt  
 —I say unto you, yea, that it was in part rebuilt—  
 And because the Lamanites had <sup>a</sup>destroyed it once because  
 of the iniquity of the people, they supposed that it  
 would again become an easy prey for them.
- 152 But behold, how great was their <sup>1</sup>disappointment,  
 For behold, the Nephites had dug up a ridge of earth  
 round about them which was so high that the  
 Lamanites could not cast their stones and their  
 arrows at them that they might take effect,  
 Neither could they come upon them,  
 save it was by their place of entrance.
- 153 Now at this time the chief captains of the Lamanites were  
 astonished exceedingly because of the wisdom of the  
 Nephites in preparing their places of security.
- 154 Now the leaders of the Lamanites had supposed,  
 because of the greatness of their numbers,  
 Yea, they supposed that they should be privileged  
 to come upon them as they had hitherto done;
- 155 Yea, and they had also prepared themselves  
 with shields and with breastplates,  
 And they had also prepared themselves with garments of  
 skins, yea, very thick garments to cover their nakedness;
- 156 And being thus prepared, they supposed that they  
 should easily overpower and subject their brethren  
 to the yoke of bondage, or slay and massacre them,  
 according to their pleasure;
- 157 But behold, to their uttermost astonishment, they  
 were prepared for them in a manner which never  
 had been known among all the children of Lehi.
- 158 Now they were prepared for the Lamanites, to battle  
 after the manner of the instructions of Moroni.
- 159 And it came to pass that the Lamanites,

or the Amalickiahites, were exceedingly astonished  
at their manner of preparation for war.

- 160 Now if King Amalickiah had come down out of  
the Land of Nephi at the head of his army,  
Perhaps he would have caused the Lamanites to have  
attacked the Nephites at the City of Ammonihah,  
For behold, he did care not for the blood of his people.
- 161 But behold, Amalickiah did not  
come down himself to battle;
- 162 And behold, his chief captains durst not attack  
the Nephites at the City of Ammonihah,  
For Moroni had altered the management of affairs  
among the Nephites insomuch that the Lamanites  
were disappointed in their places of retreat,  
And they could not come upon them,
- 163 Therefore, they retreated into the wilderness and took  
their camp and marched toward the Land of Noah,  
supposing that to be the next best place for them  
to come against the Nephites,
- 164 For they knew not that Moroni had fortified  
or had built forts of security for every city  
in all the land round about;
- 165 Therefore, they marched forward to the  
Land of Noah with a firm determination,  
Yea, their chief captains came forward and took an oath  
that they would destroy the people of that city.
- 166 But behold, to their astonishment, the City of Noah—  
which had hitherto been a weak place—had now,  
by the means of Moroni, become strong, yea, even  
to exceed the strength of the City Ammonihah.
- 167 And now behold, this was wisdom in Moroni,  
For he had supposed that they would be frightened  
at the City Ammonihah,  
And as the City of Noah had hitherto been  
the weakest part of the land,  
Therefore, they would march thither to battle;  
And thus it was according to his desires.
- 168 And behold, Moroni had appointed Lehi  
to be chief captain over the men of that city,  
And it was that same Lehi which fought with the

Lamanites in the valley on the east of the River Sidon.

- 169 And now behold, it came to pass that when the Lamanites had found that Lehi commanded the city, They were again disappointed, for they feared Lehi exceedingly; Nevertheless, their chief captains had sworn with an oath to attack the city, Therefore, they brought up their armies.
- 170 Now behold, the Lamanites could not get into their forts of security by any other way, save by the entrance, Because of the highness of the bank which had been thrown up and the depth of the ditch which had been dug round about, save it were by the entrance.
- 171 And thus were the Nephites prepared to destroy all such as should attempt to climb up to enter the fort by any other way, by casting over stones and arrows at them;
- 172 Thus they were prepared—yea, a body of their most strong men with their swords and their slings—to smite down all who should attempt to come into their place of security by the place of entrance; And thus were they prepared to defend themselves against the Lamanites.
- 173 And it came to pass that the captains of the Lamanites brought up their armies before the place of entrance, And began to contend with the Nephites, to get into their place of security;
- 174 But behold, they were driven back, from time to time, insomuch that they were slain with an immense slaughter.
- 175 Now when they found that they could not obtain power over the Nephites by the pass, They began to dig down their banks of earth that they might obtain a pass to their armies, that they might have an equal chance to fight;
- 176 But behold, in these attempts, they were swept off by the stones and the arrows which were thrown at them, And instead of filling up their ditches by pulling down the banks of earth, they were filled up in a measure with their dead and wounded bodies.
- 177 Thus the Nephites had all power over their enemies.

- And thus the Lamanites did attempt to destroy the  
Nephites, until their chief captains were all slain;
- 178 Yea, and more than a thousand  
of the Lamanites were slain,  
While on the other hand there was not a single soul  
of the Nephites which were slain—
- 179 There were about fifty which were wounded,  
which had been exposed to the arrows  
of the Lamanites through the pass,  
But they were shielded by their shields and their breast-  
plates and their headplates, insomuch that their wounds  
were upon their legs, many of which were very severe.
- 180 And it came to pass that when the Lamanites  
saw that their chief captains were all slain,  
they fled into the wilderness.
- 181 And it came to pass that they returned to the Land  
of Nephi to inform their king, Amalickiah, who  
was a Nephite by birth, concerning their great loss.
- 182 And it came to pass that he was exceeding angry  
with his people because he had not obtained  
his desire over the Nephites—  
He had not subjected them to the yoke of bondage;
- 183 Yea, he was exceeding wroth,  
And he did curse God and also Moroni,  
And swearing with an <sup>a</sup>oath that he would drink his blood; a A 23:10:11  
And this because Moroni had kept the commandments  
of God in preparing for the safety of his people.
- 184 And it came to pass that on the other hand, the people  
of Nephi did thank the Lord their God because  
of His <sup>b</sup>miraculous power in delivering them  
from the hands of their enemies. b A 8:7; 26:103  
H 2:60
- 185 And thus ended the <sup>1</sup>nineteenth year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi; 1 began A 21:3  
Yea, and there was continual peace among them  
and exceeding great prosperity in the church  
because of their heed and diligence which  
they gave unto the word of God,  
Which was declared unto them by Helaman and Shiblon  
and Coreanton and Ammon and his brethren, etc.,
- 186 Yea, and by all those which had been ordained

by the holy order of God,  
Being baptized unto repentance and sent forth  
to preach among the people, etc.

**22** AND NOW it came to pass that Moroni did not stop making preparations for war—or to defend themselves against the Lamanites.

1 72 BC

For he caused that his armies should commence—  
in the commencement of the <sup>1</sup>twentieth year  
of the reign of the judges—

a A 21:129

That they should commence in digging up <sup>a</sup>heaps  
of earth round about all the cities throughout  
all the land which was possessed by the Nephites.

2 And upon the top of these ridges of earth he caused  
that there should be timbers, yea, works of timbers  
built up to the height of a man round about the cities.

3 And he caused that upon those works of timbers  
that there should be a frame of pickets  
built upon the timbers round about,  
And they were strong and high.

b Ps 18:2

And he caused <sup>b</sup>towers to be erected  
that overlooked those works of pickets.

4 And he caused places of security to be  
built upon those towers, that the stones and  
the arrows of the Lamanites could not hurt them;

5 And they were prepared that they could cast stones  
from the top thereof, according to their pleasure  
and their strength,  
And slay him which should attempt to approach  
near the walls of the city.

6 Thus Moroni did prepare strongholds against the coming  
of their enemies, round about every city in all the land.

7 And it came to pass that Moroni caused that his armies  
should go forth into the East Wilderness;  
Yea, and they went forth and drove all the Lamanites  
which were in the East Wilderness into their own lands,  
which were south of the Land of Zarahemla.

- 8 And the Land of Nephi did run in a straight course  
from the East Sea to the west.
- 9 And it came to pass that when Moroni had driven  
all the Lamanites out of the East Wilderness,  
which was north of the lands of their own possessions,  
He caused that the inhabitants, which were in the Land  
of Zarahemla and in the land round about, should  
go forth into the East Wilderness, even to the borders  
by the seashore, and possess the land.
- 10 And he also placed armies on the south  
in the borders of their possessions,  
And caused them to erect fortifications, that they  
might secure their armies and their people  
from the hands of their enemies.
- 11 And thus he cut off all the strongholds of the Lamanites  
in the East Wilderness, yea, and also on the west,  
Fortifying the line between the Nephites and the  
Lamanites, between the Land of Zarahemla  
and the Land of Nephi, from the West Sea  
running by the head of the River Sidon,
- 12 The Nephites possessing all the Land Northward, yea,  
even all the land which was northward of the Land  
Bountiful, according to their pleasure.
- 13 Thus Moroni with his armies, which did increase daily  
because of the assurance of protection  
which his works did bring forth unto them,  
Therefore, they did seek to cut off the strength  
and the power of the Lamanites from off  
the lands of their possessions,  
That they should have no power upon the lands  
of their possessions.
- 14 And it came to pass that the Nephites  
began the foundation of a city,  
And they called the name of the city Moroni;  
And it was by the East Sea,  
And it was on the south by the line  
of the possessions of the Lamanites.
- 15 And they also began a foundation for a city  
between the City of Moroni and the City of Aaron,

joining the borders of Aaron and Moroni;  
 And they called the name of the city,  
 or the land, Nephihah.

16 And they also began in that same year  
 to build many cities on the north,  
 One in a particular manner which they called Lehi,  
 which was in the north by the borders of the seashore.

And thus ended the twentieth year.

171 BC

17 And in these prosperous circumstances were the people of  
 Nephi, in the commencement of the <sup>1</sup>twenty and first  
 year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi;

18 And they did prosper exceedingly  
 and they became exceeding rich,  
 Yea, and they did multiply and wax strong in the land.

19 And thus we see how merciful and just are  
 all the dealings of the Lord, to the fulfilling  
 of all His words unto the children of men;

20 Yea, we can behold that His words are verified,  
 even at this time, which He spake unto Lehi, saying:  
 “Blessed art thou and thy children;  
 And they shall be blessed, and inasmuch  
 as they shall keep My commandments,  
 They shall prosper in the land;

21 But remember, inasmuch as they will  
 not keep My commandments,  
 They shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.”

22 And we see that these promises have been  
 verified to the people of Nephi;  
 For it has been their quarrelings and their contentions—  
 yea, their murderings and their plunderings, their  
 idolatry, their whoredoms and their abominations  
 which were among themselves—which brought  
 upon them their wars and their destructions.

23 And those who were faithful in keeping the commandments  
 of the Lord were delivered at all times,  
 Whilst thousands of their wicked brethren have been  
 consigned to bondage, or to perish by the sword, or  
 to dwindle in unbelief and mingle with the Lamanites.

24 But behold, there never was a happier time among

the people of Nephi since the days of Nephi  
 than in the days of Moroni,  
 Yea, even at this time in the twenty and first year  
 of the reign of the judges.

- |    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 25 | And it came to pass that the <sup>1</sup> twenty and second year<br>of the reign of the judges also ended in peace,<br>Yea, and also the <sup>2</sup> twenty and third year.  | 1 70 BC<br>2 69 BC |
| 26 | And it came to pass that in the commencement of the<br><sup>3</sup> twenty and fourth year of the reign of the judges,<br>There would also have been peace among the people<br>of Nephi had it not been for a contention<br>which took place among them concerning the<br>Land of Lehi and the Land of Morionton,<br>which joined upon the borders of Lehi,<br>Both of which were on the borders by the seashore. | 3 68 BC            |
| 27 | For behold, the people which possessed the Land of<br>Morionton did claim a part of the Land of Lehi;<br>Therefore, there began to be a warm contention<br>between them, insomuch that the people of<br>Morionton took up arms against their brethren,<br>And they were determined by the sword to slay them.   |                    |
| 28 | But behold, the people which possessed the Land of Lehi<br>fled to the camp of Moroni and appealed unto him<br>for assistance,<br>For behold, they were not in the wrong.   |                    |
| 29 | And it came to pass that when the people of Morionton,<br>which were led by a man whose name was Morionton,<br>found that the people of Lehi had fled<br>to the camp of Moroni,<br>They were exceeding fearful lest the army of Moroni<br>should come upon them and destroy them;   |                    |
| 30 | Therefore, Morionton put it into their hearts that<br>they should flee to the land which was northward,<br>which was covered with large bodies of water,<br>And take possession of the land which was northward.  |                    |
| 31 | And behold, they would have carried this plan into effect,<br>which would have been a cause to have been lamented,<br>But behold, Morionton, being a man of much passion,<br>Therefore, he was angry with one of his maidservants   |                    |

- and he fell upon her and beat her much.
- 32 And it came to pass that she fled and came over  
to the camp of Moroni and told Moroni  
all things concerning the matter,  
And also concerning their intentions  
to flee into the Land Northward.
- 33 Now behold, the people which were  
in the Land Bountiful—  
Or rather, Moroni feared that they would hearken to  
the words of Morionton and unite with his people;  
And thus he would obtain possession of those parts  
of the land, which would lay a foundation for  
serious consequences among the people of Nephi,  
Yea, which consequences would lead  
to the overthrow of their liberty;
- 34 Therefore, Moroni sent an army, with their camp,  
to head the people of Morionton to stop  
their flight into the Land Northward.
- 35 And it came to pass that they did not head them until  
they had come to the borders of the Land Desolation;  
And there they did head them by the Narrow Pass  
which led by the sea into the Land Northward,  
Yea, by the sea on the west and on the east.
- 36 And it came to pass that the army which was sent by  
Moroni—which was led by a man whose name was  
Teancum—did meet the people of Morionton;
- 37 And so stubborn were the people of Morionton, being  
inspired by his wickedness and his flattering words,  
That a battle commenced between them in the which  
Teancum did slay Morionton and defeat his army  
and took them prisoners and returned  
to the camp of Moroni.
- 38 And thus ended the twenty and fourth year of the  
reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.  
And thus were the people of Morionton brought back.
- 39 And upon their covenanting to keep the peace,  
they were restored to the Land of Morionton,  
And a union took place between them  
and the people of Lehi;

And they were also restored to their lands.

- 40 And it came to pass that in the same year that the people  
of Nephi had peace restored unto them,  
That Nephiah, the second chief judge, died, having filled  
the judgment seat with perfect uprightness before God;
- 41 Nevertheless, he had refused Alma to take possession of  
those records and those things which were esteemed  
by Alma and his fathers to be most sacred;  
Therefore, Alma had conferred them  
upon his son Helaman.
- 42 Behold, it came to pass that the son of Nephiah  
was appointed to fill the judgment seat  
in the stead of his father;  
Yea, he was appointed chief judge and governor  
over the people, with an oath and  
sacred ordinance to judge righteously,  
And to keep the peace and the freedom of the people,  
And to grant unto them their sacred privileges  
to worship the Lord their God,
- 43 Yea, to support and maintain the cause of God all his days,  
And to bring the wicked to justice according to their crime.
- Now behold, his name was Pahoron;
- 44 And Pahoron did fill the seat of his father and did  
commence his reign in the end of the twenty  
and fourth year over the people of Nephi.

**23** AND NOW it came to pass in the commencement  
of the <sup>1</sup>twenty and fifth year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi,  
They having established peace between the people of Lehi  
and the people of Morianton concerning their lands,  
And having commenced the twenty and fifth year in peace;

2 Nevertheless, they did not long maintain  
an entire peace in the land,  
For there began to be a contention among the people  
concerning the chief judge Pahoron.

1 67 BC

- For behold, there were a part of the people which desired  
that a few particular points of the law should be altered;
- 3 But behold, Pahoron would not alter,  
nor suffer the law to be altered;

- Therefore, he did not hearken to those  
who had sent in their voices with their  
petitions concerning the altering of the law;
- 4 Therefore, those which were desirous that the law  
should be altered were angry with him and desired  
that he should no longer be chief judge over the land;  
Therefore, there arose a warm dispute  
concerning the matter,  
But not unto bloodshed.
- 5 And it came to pass that those who were desirous  
that Pahoron should be dethroned from  
the judgment seat were called Kingmen,  
For they were desirous that the law should be altered  
in a manner to overthrow the free government  
and to establish a king over the land;
- 6 And those who were desirous that Pahoron  
should remain chief judge over the land  
took upon them the name of Freemen;  
And thus was the division among them,  
For the Freemen had sworn or covenanted  
to maintain their rights and the privileges  
of their religion by a free government.
- 7 And it came to pass that this matter of their  
contention was settled by the voice of the people.
- 8 And it came to pass that the voice of the people  
came in the favor of the Freemen;  
And Pahoron retained the judgment seat which  
caused much rejoicing among the brethren  
of Pahoron, and also among the people of liberty,  
Which also put the Kingmen to silence, that they  
durst not oppose, but were obliged  
to maintain the cause of freedom.
- 9 Now those which were in favor of kings  
were those of high birth,  
And they sought to be kings;  
And they were supported by those which  
sought power and authority over the people.
- 10 But behold, this was a critical time for such contentions  
to be among the people of Nephi;  
For behold, Amalickiah had again stirred up the hearts

of the people of the Lamanites against  
 the people of the Nephites;  
 And he was gathering together soldiers  
 from all parts of his land and arming them  
 and preparing for war with all diligence,  
 For he had <sup>a</sup>sworn to drink the blood of Moroni.

a A 21:183

- 11 But behold, we shall see that this promise  
 which he made was rash;  
 Nevertheless, he did prepare himself and his armies  
 to come to battle against the Nephites.
- 12 Now his armies were not so great as they had hitherto been  
 because of the many thousands which had been slain  
 by the hand of the Nephites;
- 13 But notwithstanding their great loss, Amalickiah  
 had gathered together a wonderful, great army,  
 Insomuch that he feared not to come down  
 to the Land of Zarahemla.
- 14 Yea, even Amalickiah did himself  
 come down at the head of the Lamanites.
- 15 And it was in the twenty and fifth year  
 of the reign of the judges;  
 And it was at the same time that they had begun  
 to settle the affairs of their contentions  
 concerning the chief judge Pahoron.
- 16 And it came to pass that when the men which were  
 called Kingmen had heard that the Lamanites  
 were coming down to battle against them,  
 They were glad in their hearts  
 and they refused to take up arms;  
 For they were so wroth with the chief judge, and also  
 with the people of liberty, that they would  
 not take up arms to defend their country.
- 17 And it came to pass that when Moroni saw this,  
 and also saw that the Lamanites were coming  
 into the borders of the land,  
 He was exceeding wroth because of the stubbornness  
 of those people of whom he had labored  
 with so much diligence to preserve;  
 Yea, he was exceeding wroth;

- His soul was filled with anger against them.
- 18 And it came to pass that he sent a petition, with the voice of the people, unto the governor of the land, Desiring that he should heed it and give him, Moroni, power to compel those dissenters to defend their country or to put them to death;
- 19 For it was his first care to put an end to such contentions and dissensions among the people; For behold, this had been hitherto a cause of all their destructions.
- 20 And it came to pass that it was granted, according to the voice of the people.
- 21 And it came to pass that Moroni commanded that his army should go against those Kingmen to pull down their pride and their nobility and level them with the earth, Or they should take up arms and support the cause of liberty.
- 22 And it came to pass that the armies did march forth against them; And they did pull down their pride and their nobility, insomuch that as they did lift their weapons of war to fight against the men of Moroni, They were hewn down and leveled to the earth.
- 23 And it came to pass that there were four thousand of those dissenters which were hewn down by the sword; And those of their leaders which were not slain in battle were taken and cast into prison, For there was no time for their trials at this period;
- 24 And the remainder of those dissenters, rather than to be smote down to the earth by the sword, Yielded to the standard of liberty and were compelled to hoist the <sup>a</sup>title of liberty upon their towers and in their cities and to take up arms in defense of their country.
- 25 And thus Moroni put an end to those Kingmen, that there were not any known by the appellation of Kingmen; And thus he put an end to the stubbornness and the pride of those people which professed the blood of nobility;
- 26 But they were brought down to humble themselves, like unto their brethren, and to fight valiantly for their freedom from bondage.

a A 21:43-49

- 27 Behold, it came to pass that while Moroni  
 was thus breaking down the wars and  
 contentions among his own people,  
 And subjecting them to peace and civilization,  
 And making regulations to prepare  
 for war against the Lamanites,  
 Behold, the Lamanites had come into the Land of Moroni,  
 which was in the borders by the seashore.
- 28 And it came to pass that the Nephites were  
 not sufficiently strong in the City of Moroni;  
 Therefore, Amalickiah did drive them, slaying many.
- 29 And it came to pass that Amalickiah took possession  
 of the city, yea, possession of all their fortifications.
- 30 And those which fled out of the City of Moroni  
 came to the City of Nephihah;  
 And also the people of the City of Lehi gathered  
 themselves together and made preparations  
 and were ready to receive the Lamanites to battle.
- 31 But it came to pass that Amalickiah would not suffer the  
 Lamanites to go against the City of Nephihah to battle,  
 but kept them down by the seashore, leaving men  
 in every city to maintain and defend it.
- 32 And thus he went on,  
 Taking possession of many cities—  
 the City of Nephihah,  
 and the City of Lehi,  
 and the City of Morionton,  
 and the City of Omner,  
 and the City of Gid,  
 and the City of Mulek—  
 All of which were on the east borders by the seashore.
- 33 And thus had the Lamanites obtained, by the cunning of  
 Amalickiah, so many cities by their numberless hosts,  
 All of which were strongly <sup>a</sup>fortified after the manner  
 of the fortifications of Moroni,  
 All of which afforded strongholds for the Lamanites.
- 34 And it came to pass that they marched to the borders  
 of the Land Bountiful, driving the Nephites  
 before them and slaying many.

a A 21:170; 22:1-4

- 35 But it came to pass that they were met by Teancum,  
who had slain Morionton and had headed  
his people in his flight.
- 36 And it came to pass that he headed Amalickiah also,  
as he was marching forth with his numerous army  
that he might take possession of the Land Bountiful,  
and also the Land Northward;
- 37 But behold, he met with a disappointment by being repulsed  
by Teancum and his men, for they were great warriors;  
For every man of Teancum did exceed the Lamanites  
in their strength and in their skill of war,  
Insomuch that they did gain advantage over the Lamanites.
- 38 And it came to pass that they did harass them,  
Insomuch that they did slay them, even until it was dark.
- 39 And it came to pass that Teancum and his men did pitch  
their tents in the borders of the Land Bountiful;  
And Amalickiah did pitch his tents in the borders  
on the beach by the seashore.
- And after this manner were they driven.
- 40 And it came to pass that when the night had come,  
Teancum and his servant stole forth and went out  
by night and went into the camp of Amalickiah;  
And behold, sleep had overpowered them  
because of their much fatigue which was  
caused by the labors and heat of the day.
- 41 And it came to pass that Teancum stole privily into  
the tent of the king and put a <sup>a</sup>javelin to his heart;  
And he did cause the death of the king immediately,  
that he did not awake his servants.
- 42 And he returned again privily to his own camp,  
And behold, his men were asleep;  
And he awoke them and told them all the things  
that he had done.
- 43 And he caused that his armies should stand in readiness, lest  
the Lamanites had awoke and should come upon them.
- 44 And thus ended the twenty and fifth year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi.
- And thus ended the days of Amalickiah.

a A 29:43

- 24** AND NOW it came to pass in the <sup>1</sup>twenty and sixth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi, Behold, when the Lamanites awoke on the first morning of the first month, Behold, they found Amalickiah was dead in his own tent; And they also saw that Teancum was ready to give them battle on that day;
- 2 And now when the Lamanites saw this, they were affrighted, And they abandoned their design in marching into the Land Northward and retreated with all their army into the City of Mulek and sought protection in their <sup>a</sup>fortifications.
- 3 And it came to pass that the brother of Amalickiah was appointed king over the people, And his name was Ammaron; Thus King Ammaron, the brother of King Amalickiah, was appointed to reign in his stead.
- 4 And it came to pass that he did command that his people should maintain those cities which they had taken by the shedding of blood; For they had not taken any cities, save they had lost much blood.
- 5 And now Teancum saw that the Lamanites were determined to maintain those cities which they had taken and those parts of the land which they had obtained possession of;
- 6 And also seeing the enormity of their number, Teancum thought it was not expedient that he should attempt to attack them in their forts; But he kept his men round about as if making preparations for war,
- 7 Yea, and truly he was preparing to defend himself against them by casting up walls round about and preparing places of resort.
- 8 And it came to pass that he kept thus preparing for war until Moroni had sent a large number of men to strengthen his army.
- 9 And Moroni also sent orders unto him that he should retain all the prisoners which fell into his hands—

<sup>1</sup> 66 BC  
A 26:7

a A 21:170; 22:1-4

- For as the Lamanites had taken many prisoners, that he should retain all the prisoners of the Lamanites as a ransom for those which the Lamanites had taken.
- 10 And he also sent orders unto him that he should fortify the Land Bountiful and secure the Narrow Pass which led into the Land Northward, Lest the Lamanites should obtain that point and should have power to harass them on every side.
- 11 And Moroni also sent unto him desiring him that he would be faithful in maintaining that quarter of the land, And that he would seek every opportunity to scourge the Lamanites in that quarter as much as was in his power,
- 12 That perhaps he might take again, by stratagem or some other way, those cities which had been taken out of their hands, And that he also would fortify and strengthen the cities round about which had not fallen into the hands of the Lamanites.
- 13 And he also said unto him:  
“I would come unto you,  
But behold, the Lamanites are upon us in the borders of the land by the West Sea,  
And behold, I go against them;  
Therefore, I cannot come unto you.”
- 14 Now the king, Ammaron, had departed out of the Land of Zarahemla, And had made known unto the queen concerning the death of his brother, And had gathered together a large number of men, And had marched forth against the Nephites on the borders by the West Sea;
- 15 And thus he was endeavoring to harass the Nephites and to draw away a part of their forces to that part of the land, While he had commanded those which he had left to possess the cities which he had taken, that they should also harass the Nephites on the borders by the East Sea, And should take possession of their lands as much as it were in their power, according to the power of their armies.
- 16 And thus were the Nephites in those dangerous

circumstances in the ending of the twentieth and sixth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

- 17 But behold, it came to pass in the <sup>1</sup>twentieth and seventh year of the reign of the judges that Teancum—  
 By the command of Moroni who had established armies to protect the south and the west borders of the land, had begun his march toward the Land of Bountiful, that he might assist Teancum with his men in retaking the cities which they had lost—
- 18 And it came to pass that Teancum had received orders to make an attack upon the City of Mulek and retake it if it were possible.
- 19 And it came to pass that Teancum made preparations to make an attack upon the City of Mulek and march forth with his army against the Lamanites; But he saw that it was impossible that he could overpower them while they were in their fortifications;
- 20 Therefore, he abandoned his designs and returned again to the City Bountiful to wait for the coming of Moroni, that he might receive strength to his army.
- 21 And it came to pass that Moroni did arrive with his army to the Land of Bountiful in the latter end of the twenty and seventh year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.
- 22 And in the commencement of the <sup>2</sup>twenty and eighth year, Moroni and Teancum and many of the chief captains held a council of war what they should do to cause the Lamanites to come out against them to battle,
- 23 Or that they might by some means flatter them out of their strongholds, that they might gain advantage over them and take again the City of Mulek.
- 24 And it came to pass that they sent embassies to the armies of the Lamanites, which protected the City of Mulek, to their leader whose name was Jacob, desiring him that he would come out with his armies to meet them upon the plains between the two cities.
- 25 But behold, Jacob, which was a Zoramite, would not come out with his army to meet them upon the plains.
- 26 And it came to pass that Moroni having no hopes of meeting them upon fair grounds,

1 65 BC

2 64 BC

- Therefore, he resolved upon a plan that he might  
decoy the Lamanites out of their strongholds;
- 27 Therefore, he caused that Teancum should take a small  
number of men and march down near the seashore,  
And Moroni and his army, by night, marched into  
the wilderness on the west of the City Mulek;
- 28 And thus on the morrow, when the guards of  
the Lamanites had discovered Teancum,  
they ran and told it unto Jacob their leader.
- 29 And it came to pass that the armies of the Lamanites  
did march forth against Teancum, supposing  
by their numbers to overpower Teancum  
because of the smallness of his numbers;
- 30 And as Teancum saw the armies of the Lamanites  
coming out against him, he began to retreat  
down by the seashore, northward.
- 31 And it came to pass that when the Lamanites saw  
that he began to flee, they took courage  
and pursued them with vigor;
- 32 And while Teancum was thus leading away the  
Lamanites which were pursuing them in vain,  
Behold, Moroni commanded that a part of his army  
which were with him should march forth  
into the city and take possession of it.
- 33 And thus they did and slew all those who had been left  
to protect the city, yea, all those who would not  
yield up their weapons of war.
- 34 And thus Moroni had obtained a possession of the City  
Mulek with a part of his army, while he marched  
with the remainder to meet the Lamanites when  
they should return from the pursuit of Teancum.
- 35 And it came to pass that the Lamanites did pursue  
Teancum until they came near the City Bountiful;  
And then they were met by Lehi and a small army  
which had been left to protect the City Bountiful.
- 36 And now behold, when the chief captains of the Lamanites  
had beheld Lehi with his army coming against them,  
they fled in much confusion,  
Lest perhaps they should not obtain the City Mulek  
before Lehi should overtake them,

- For they were wearied because of their march  
and the men of Lehi were fresh.
- 37 Now the Lamanites did not know that Moroni  
had been in their rear with his army,  
And all they feared was Lehi and his men.
- 38 Now Lehi was not desirous to overtake them  
till they should meet Moroni and his army.
- 39 And it came to pass that before the Lamanites  
had retreated far, they were surrounded by the  
Nephites—by the men of Moroni on one hand  
and the men of Lehi on the other, all of whom  
were fresh and full of strength;  
But the Lamanites were wearied  
because of their long march,
- 40 And Moroni commanded his men that they  
should fall upon them until they had  
given up their weapons of war.
- 41 And it came to pass that Jacob being their leader, being  
also a Zoramite and having an unconquerable spirit,  
He led the Lamanites forth to battle  
with exceeding fury against Moroni—
- 42 Moroni being in their course of march—  
Therefore, Jacob was determined to slay them  
and cut his way through to the City of Mulek;
- 43 But behold, Moroni and his men were more powerful,  
Therefore, they did not give way before the Lamanites.
- 44 And it came to pass that they fought on both hands  
with exceeding fury;  
And there were many slain on both sides,  
Yea, and Moroni was wounded and Jacob was killed;
- 45 And Lehi pressed upon their rear with such fury  
with his strong men that the Lamanites  
in the rear delivered up their weapons of war,  
And the remainder of them, being much confused,  
knew not whether to go or to strike.
- 46 Now Moroni seeing their confusion, he said unto them:  
“If ye will bring forth your weapons of war  
and deliver them up,  
Behold, we will forbear shedding your blood.”
- 47 And it came to pass that when the Lamanites

- had heard these words,  
 Their chief captains—all those which were not slain—  
 came forth and threw down their weapons  
 of war at the feet of Moroni,  
 And also commanded their men  
 that they should do the same.
- 48 But behold, there were many that would not;  
 And those who would not deliver up their swords  
 were taken and bound and their weapons of war  
 were taken from them,  
 And they were compelled to march with their brethren  
 forth into the Land Bountiful;
- 49 And now the number of prisoners which were taken  
 exceeded more than the number of those  
 which had been slain, yea, more than those  
 which had been slain on both sides.
- 50 And it came to pass that they did set guards  
 over the prisoners of the Lamanites,  
 And did compel them to go forth and bury their dead, yea,  
 and also the dead of the Nephites which were slain;  
 And Moroni placed men over them to guard them  
 while they should perform their labors.
- 51 And Moroni went to the City of Mulek with Lehi  
 and took command of the city and gave it unto Lehi.
- 52 Now behold, this Lehi was a man who had been with  
 Moroni in the more part of all his battles and he  
 was a man like unto Moroni;  
 And they rejoiced in each other's safety,  
 Yea, they were beloved by each other, and also  
 beloved by all the people of Nephi.
- 53 And it came to pass that after the Lamanites had finished  
 burying their dead, and also the dead of the Nephites,  
 They were marched back into the Land Bountiful.
- 54 And Teancum, by the orders of Moroni, caused that  
 they should commence in laboring in <sup>a</sup>digging a ditch  
 round about the Land or the City Bountiful.
- 55 And he caused that they should build a breastwork  
 of timbers upon the inner bank of the ditch;  
 And they cast up dirt out of the ditch

a A 21:170

against the breastwork of timbers.

- 56 And thus they did cause the Lamanites to labor until they had encircled the City of Bountiful round about with a strong wall of timbers and earth to an exceeding height;
- 57 And this city became an exceeding stronghold ever after; And in this city they did guard the prisoners of the Lamanites,  
Yea, even within a wall which they had caused them to build with their own hands.
- 58 Now Moroni was compelled to cause the Lamanites to labor because it was easy to guard them while at their labor;  
And he desired all his forces when he should make an attack upon the Lamanites.
- 59 And it came to pass that Moroni had thus gained a victory over one of the greatest of the armies of the Lamanites, And had obtained possession of the City Mulek which was one of the strongest holds of the Lamanites in the Land of Nephi;  
And thus he had also built a stronghold to retain his prisoners.
- 60 And it came to pass that he did no more attempt a battle with the Lamanites in that year;  
But he did employ his men in preparing for war, Yea, and in making fortifications to guard against the Lamanites,  
Yea, and also delivering their women and their children from famine and affliction,  
And providing food for their armies.
- 61 And now it came to pass that the armies of the Lamanites on the West Sea South—while in the absence of Moroni on account of some <sup>a</sup>intrigue amongst the Nephites, which caused dissensions amongst them—had gained some ground over the Nephites,  
Yea, insomuch that they had obtained possession of a number of their cities in that part of the land;
- 62 And thus because of iniquity amongst themselves, yea, because of dissensions and intrigue among themselves, they were placed in the most dangerous circumstances.
- 63 And now behold, I have somewhat to say

a A 23:2-10

a A 14:34-47

- concerning the people of Ammon which,  
 in the beginning, were Lamanites;  
 But by Ammon and his brethren—or rather,  
 by the power and word of God—they had  
 been converted unto the Lord;
- 64 And they had been brought down into  
 the Land of Zarahemla and had ever  
 since been protected by the Nephites;  
 And because of their <sup>a</sup>oath, they had been kept  
 from taking up arms against their brethren,
- 65 For they had taken an oath that they  
 never would shed blood more;  
 And according to their oath, they would have perished,  
 Yea, they would have suffered themselves to have fallen  
 into the hands of their brethren had it not been  
 for the pity and the exceeding love which  
 Ammon and his brethren had had for them;
- 66 And for this cause, they were brought down  
 into the Land of Zarahemla,  
 And they ever had been protected by the Nephites.
- 67 But it came to pass that when they saw the danger  
 and the many afflictions and tribulations  
 which the Nephites bore for them,  
 They were moved with compassion and were desirous  
 to take up arms in the defense of their country;
- 68 But behold, as they were about to  
 take their weapons of war,  
 They were overpowered by the persuasions of Helaman  
 and his brethren, for they were about to  
 break the oath which they had made;
- 69 And Helaman feared lest by so doing,  
 they should lose their souls;  
 Therefore, all those which had entered into this covenant  
 were compelled to behold their brethren  
 wade through their afflictions in their  
 dangerous circumstances at this time.
- 70 But behold, it came to pass they had many sons  
 which had not entered into a covenant that they  
 would not take their weapons of war  
 to defend themselves against their enemies;
- 71 Therefore, they did assemble themselves together  
 at this time as many as were able to take up arms,

- And they called themselves Nephites;  
 72 And they entered into a covenant to fight for the liberty  
 of the Nephites, yea, to protect the land  
 unto the laying down of their lives;  
 73 Yea, even they covenanted that they never would give up  
 their liberty, but they would fight in all cases to protect  
 the Nephites and themselves from bondage.
- 74 Now behold, there were two thousand of those young men  
 which entered into this covenant and took their  
 weapons of war to defend their country.
- 75 And now behold, as they never had hitherto been  
 a disadvantage to the Nephites, they became now  
 at this period of time also a great support,  
 For they took their weapons of war and they would  
 that Helaman should be their leader;
- 76 And they were all young men,  
 And they were exceeding valiant for courage,  
 and also for strength and activity;  
 But behold, this was not all—  
 They were men which were true at all times  
 in whatsoever thing they were entrusted,
- 77 Yea, they were men of truth and soberness,  
 For they had been taught to keep the commandments  
 of God and to walk uprightly before Him.
- 78 And now it came to pass that <sup>a</sup>Helaman did march at  
 the head of his two thousand stripling soldiers  
 to the support of the people in the borders  
 of the land on the south by the West Sea.
- 79 And thus ended the twenty and eighth year of the reign  
 of the judges over the people of Nephi, etc.

a A 26:2

**25** AND NOW it came to pass in the commencement  
 of the <sup>1</sup>twenty and ninth year of the judges that  
 Ammaron sent unto Moroni, desiring  
 that he would exchange prisoners.

1 63 BC

- 2 And it came to pass that Moroni felt to rejoice  
 exceedingly at this request;  
 For he desired the provisions which were imparted  
 for the support of the Lamanite prisoners  
 for the support of his own people,

And he also desired his own people  
for the strengthening of his army.

3 Now the Lamanites had taken many women and children;  
And there was not a woman nor a child  
among all the prisoners of Moroni,  
or the prisoners which Moroni had taken;

4 Therefore, Moroni resolved upon a stratagem  
to obtain as many prisoners of the Nephites  
from the Lamanites as it were possible;  
Therefore, he wrote an epistle and sent it  
by the servant of Ammaron, the same  
who had brought an epistle to Moroni.

5 Now these are the words which he  
wrote unto Ammaron, saying:  
“Behold, Ammaron, I have written unto you  
somewhat concerning this war which ye  
have waged against my people,  
a A 24:3 Or rather, which thy <sup>a</sup>brother hath waged  
against them and which ye are still  
determined to carry on after his death.

6 “Behold, I would tell you something concerning  
the justice of God and the sword of His  
almighty wrath which doth hang over you,  
Except ye repent and withdraw your armies into your  
own lands, or the lands of your possessions,  
which is the Land of Nephi.

“Yea, I would tell you these things if ye  
were capable of hearkening unto them;  
7 Yea, I would tell you concerning that awful hell  
which awaits to receive such murderers  
as thou and thy brother hath been,  
Except ye repent and withdraw your murderous purposes  
and return with your armies to your own lands.

b A 21:27-35 8 “But as ye have once <sup>b</sup>rejected these things and  
have fought against the people of the Lord,  
Even so I may expect you will do it again.

9 “And now behold, we are prepared to receive you;  
Yea, and except you withdraw your purposes,  
Behold, ye will pull down the wrath of that God  
whom you have rejected upon you,

- yea, even to your utter destruction;
- 10 But, as the Lord liveth, our armies shall come upon you,  
 except ye withdraw,  
 And ye shall soon be visited with death;  
 For we will retake our cities and our lands,  
 Yea, and we will maintain our religion  
 and the cause of our God.
- 11 “But behold, it supposeth me that I talk to you  
 concerning these things in vain,  
 Or, it supposeth me that thou art a child of hell;  
 Therefore, I will close my epistle by telling you  
 that I will not exchange prisoners,  
 Save it be on conditions that ye will deliver up a man  
 and his wife and his children for one prisoner—  
 If this be the case that ye will do it, I will exchange.
- 12 “And behold, if ye do not this, I will come  
 against you with my armies,  
 Yea, even I will arm my women and my children  
 and I will come against you;  
 And I will follow you even into your own land,  
 which is the land of our first inheritance;  
 Yea, and it shall be blood for blood, yea, life for life;  
 And I will give you battle, even until you are destroyed  
 from off the face of the earth.
- 13 “Behold, I am in my anger!  
 And also my people!  
 Ye have sought to murder us,  
 And we have only sought to defend ourselves.
- 14 “But behold, if ye seek to destroy us more,  
 we will seek to destroy you;  
 Yea, and we will seek our lands,  
 the lands of our first inheritance.
- 15 “Now I close my epistle;  
 I am Moroni;  
 I am a leader of the people of the Nephites.”
- 16 Now it came to pass that Ammaron, when he  
 had received this epistle, he was angry;  
 And he wrote another epistle unto Moroni;  
 And these are the words which he wrote, saying:  
 “I am Ammaron, the king of the Lamanites;

a A 23:41

I am the brother of Amalickiah whom ye have <sup>a</sup>murdered.

17 “Behold, I will avenge his blood upon you  
Yea, and I will come upon you with my armies  
for I fear not your threatenings.

b 2N 4:1-4

18 “For behold, your fathers did wrong their brethren,  
insomuch that they did rob them of their <sup>b</sup>right to the  
government when it rightfully belonged unto them.

19 “And now behold, if ye will lay down your arms  
and subject yourselves to be governed by those  
to whom the government doth rightly belong,  
Then will I cause that my people shall lay down  
their weapons and shall be at war no more.

20 “Behold, ye have breathed out many threatenings  
against me and my people;  
But behold, we fear not your threatenings.

21 “Nevertheless, I will grant to exchange prisoners  
according to your request, gladly,  
that I may preserve my food for my men of war;

22 And we will wage a war which shall be eternal,  
either to the subjecting the Nephites to our authority,  
or to their eternal extinction!

23 “And as concerning that God  
whom ye say we have rejected,  
Behold, we know not such a Being;  
Neither do ye;  
But if it so be that there is such a Being, we know not  
but that He hath made us as well as you;

24 And if it so be that there is a devil and a hell,  
Behold, will he not send you there to dwell with  
my brother which ye have murdered, which ye  
have hinted that he hath gone to such a place?  
But behold, these things mattereth not.

25 “I am Ammaron and a descendant of Zoram whom  
your fathers pressed and brought out of Jerusalem.  
And behold, I am now a bold Lamanite.

26 “Behold, this war hath been waged to avenge  
their wrongs and to maintain and to obtain  
their rights to the government;  
And I close my epistle to Moroni.”

- 27 Now it came to pass that when Moroni had received this epistle, he was more angry because he knew that Ammaron had a perfect knowledge of his fraud—  
Yea, he knew that Ammaron knew that it was not a just cause that had caused him to wage a war against the people of Nephi—
- 28 And he said:  
“Behold, I will not exchange prisoners with Ammaron, save he will withdraw his purpose as I have stated in my epistle;  
For I will not grant unto him that he shall have any more power than what he hath got.
- 29 “Behold, I know that place where the Lamanites doth guard my people which they have taken prisoners;  
And as Ammaron would not grant unto me mine epistle, Behold, I will give unto him according to my words;  
Yea, I will seek death among them until they shall sue for peace.”
- 30 And now it came to pass that when Moroni had said these words, he caused that a search should be made among his men that perhaps he might find a man which was a descendant of Laman among them.
- 31 And it came to pass that they found one whose name was Laman;  
And he was one of the servants of the king which was murdered by Amalickiah.
- 32 Now Moroni caused that Laman and a small number of his men should go forth unto the guards which were over the Nephites;
- 33 Now the Nephites were guarded in the City of Gid;  
Therefore, Moroni caused that Laman and a small number of men, which was appointed, to go with him.
- 34 And it came to pass that when it was evening, Laman went to the guards which were over the Nephites,  
And behold, they saw him coming and they hailed him;
- 35 But he saith unto them:  
“Fear not—  
Behold, I am a Lamanite;  
Behold, we have escaped from the Nephites and they sleepeth;

- And behold, we have taken of their wine  
and brought with us.”
- 36 Now when the Lamanites heard these words,  
they received him with joy;  
And they said unto him:  
“Give us of your wine that we may drink;  
We are glad that ye have thus taken wine with you,  
for we are weary.”
- 37 But Laman saith unto them:  
“Let us keep of our wine till we  
go against the Nephites to battle.”
- But this saying only made them  
more desirous to drink of the wine;
- 38 For, said they:  
“We are weary, therefore, let us take of the wine,  
And by and by we shall receive wine for our rations  
which will strengthen us to go against the Nephites.”
- And Laman saith unto them:  
“You may do according to your desires.”
- 39 And it came to pass that they did take of the wine freely,  
And it was pleasant to their taste;  
Therefore, they took of it more freely;  
And it was strong, having been prepared in its strength.
- 40 And it came to pass they did drink and were merry;  
And by and by they were all drunken.
- 41 And now when Laman and his men saw that they were  
all drunken and were in a deep sleep, they returned to  
Moroni and told him all the things that had happened;  
And now this was according to the design of Moroni.
- 42 And Moroni had prepared his men with weapons of war;  
And he went to the City Gid while the Lamanites  
were in a deep sleep and drunken,  
And cast in the weapons of war in unto the prisoners,  
insomuch that they were all armed,  
Yea, even to their women and all those of their children—  
as many as were able to use a weapon of war—  
when Moroni had armed all those prisoners;
- 43 And all those things were done in a profound silence;

But had they awakened the Lamanites,  
Behold, they were drunken and the  
Nephites could have slain them.

- 44 But behold, this was not the desire of Moroni;  
He did not delight in murder or bloodshed,  
But he delighted in the saving of his people  
from destruction;  
And for this cause he might not bring upon him injustice,  
he would not fall upon the Lamanites  
and destroy them in their drunkenness.
- 45 But he had obtained his desire, for he had armed  
those prisoners of the Nephites which were  
within the walls of the city,  
And had given them power to gain possession  
of those parts which were within the walls;
- 46 And then he caused the men which were with him  
to withdraw a pace from them and  
surround the armies of the Lamanites;
- 47 Now behold, this was done in the nighttime so that when  
the Lamanites awoke in the morning, they beheld  
that they were surrounded by the Nephites without  
and that their prisoners were armed within.
- 48 And thus they saw that the Nephites had power over them;  
And in these circumstances, they found that it was not  
expedient that they should fight with the Nephites;
- 49 Therefore, their chief captains  
demanded their weapons of war,  
And they brought them forth and cast them  
at the feet of the Nephites, pleading for mercy.
- Now behold, this was the desire of Moroni;
- 50 He took them prisoners of war and took  
possession of the city,  
And caused that all the prisoners should be liberated,  
which were Nephites;  
And they did join the army of Moroni  
and were a great strength to his army.
- 51 And it came to pass that he did cause the Lamanites  
which he had taken prisoners, that they should  
commence a labor in strengthening the fortifications  
round about the City Gid.

- 52 And it came to pass that when he had fortified the  
City Gid according to his desires, he caused that  
his prisoners should be taken to the City Bountiful;
- 53 And he also guarded that city  
with an exceeding strong force.
- 54 And it came to pass that they did—notwithstanding  
all the intrigues of the Lamanites—keep and  
protect all the prisoners which they had taken,  
And also maintain all the ground and the advantage  
which they had retaken.
- 55 And it came to pass that the Nephites began again  
to be victorious and to reclaim their rights  
and their privileges.
- 56 Many times did the Lamanites attempt to encircle them  
about by night, but in these attempts  
they did lose many prisoners.
- 57 And many times did they attempt to administer of their  
wine to the Nephites that they might destroy them  
with poison or with drunkenness.
- 58 But behold, the Nephites were not slow to remember  
the Lord their God in this, their times of affliction;
- 59 They could not be taken in their snares,  
Yea, they would not partake of their wine,  
Yea, they would not take of wine, save they had  
firstly given to some of the Lamanite prisoners;
- 60 And they were thus cautious that no poison should  
be administered among them;  
For if their wine would poison a Lamanite,  
it would also poison a Nephite;  
And thus they did try all their liquors.
- 61 And now it came to pass that it was expedient for Moroni  
to make preparations to attack the City Morionton;
- 62 For behold, the Lamanites had by their labors  
fortified the City Morionton until it  
had become an exceeding stronghold;  
And they were continually bringing new forces  
into that city, and also new supplies of provisions.
- 63 And thus ended the twenty and ninth year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi.

26 AND NOW it came to pass in the commencement of the <sup>1</sup>thirtieth year of the reign of the judges, in the second day on the first month, Moroni received an epistle from Helaman stating the affairs of the people in that quarter of the land.

2 And these are the words which he wrote, saying:  
 “My dearly beloved brother Moroni, as well in the Lord as in the tribulations of our warfare,  
 Behold, my beloved brother, I have somewhat to tell you concerning our warfare in this part of the land.

3 “Behold, <sup>a</sup>two thousand of the sons of those men which Ammon brought down out of the Land of Nephi—  
 4 Now ye have known that these were a descendant of Laman which was the eldest son of our father Lehi—  
 5 Now I need not rehearse unto you concerning their traditions or their unbelief, for thou knowest concerning all these things—  
 Therefore, it sufficeth me that I tell you that two thousand of these young men hath taken their weapons of war and would that I should be their leader;  
 And we have come forth to defend our country.

6 “And now ye also know concerning the <sup>b</sup>covenant which their fathers made that they would not take up their weapons of war against their brethren to shed blood;  
 7 But in the <sup>2</sup>twenty and sixth year, when they saw our afflictions and our tribulations for them, they were about to break the covenant which they had made and take up their weapons of war in our defense;  
 8 But I would not suffer them that they should break this covenant which they had made,  
 Supposing that God would strengthen us insomuch that we should not suffer more because of the fulfilling the oath which they had taken.

9 “But behold, here is one thing in which we may have great joy—  
 10 For behold, in the twenty and sixth year, I, Helaman, did march at the head of these two thousand young men to the City of Judeah, to assist Antipus whom ye had appointed a leader over the people of that part of the land;  
 11 And I did join my two thousand sons—for they are worthy

1 62 BC

a A 24:70-78

b A 14:34-35

2 66 BC  
vv 7-164 =  
flashback  
A 24:1

- to be called sons—to the army of Antipus, in the  
 which strength Antipus did rejoice exceedingly;  
 For behold, his army had been reduced by the Lamanites  
 because of the numerosity of their forces,  
 having slain a vast number of our men,  
 for which cause we have to mourn;
- 12 Nevertheless, we may console ourselves in this point—  
 that they have died in the cause of their country  
 and of their God, yea, and they are happy.
- 13 “And the Lamanites had also retained many prisoners,  
 all of whom are chief captains, for none other  
 have they spared alive;
- 14 And we suppose that they are now at this time  
 in the Land of Nephi;  
 It is so, if they are not slain.
- 15 “And now these are the cities which the Lamanites  
 have obtained possession by the shedding  
 of the blood of so many of our valiant men—  
 The Land of Manti, or the City of Manti,  
 and the City of Zeezrom,  
 and the City of Cumeni,  
 and the City of Antiparah—
- 16 And these are the cities which they possessed  
 when I arrived at the City of Judeah.
- “And I found Antipus and his men toiling  
 with their mights to fortify the city;
- 17 Yea, and they were depressed in body as well as in spirit,  
 For they had fought valiantly by day and toiled by night  
 to maintain their cities;  
 And thus they had suffered great afflictions of every kind.
- 18 “And now they were determined  
 to conquer in this place, or die;  
 Therefore, you may well suppose that this little force  
 which I brought with me, yea, those sons of mine,  
 gave them great hopes and much joy.
- 19 “And now it came to pass that when the Lamanites saw  
 that Antipus had received a greater strength to his army,  
 They were compelled, by the orders of Ammaron, to not  
 come against the City of Judeah, or against us to battle.
- 20 “And thus were we favored of the Lord,

- For had they come upon us in this our weakness, they  
 might have perhaps destroyed our little army;  
 But thus were we favored—
- 21 They were commanded by Ammaron to maintain  
 those cities which they had taken.
- “And thus ended the twenty and sixth year.
- 22 “And in the commencement of the  
<sup>1</sup>twenty and seventh year,  
 We had prepared our city and ourselves for defense;
- 23 Now we were desirous that the Lamanites  
 should come upon us,  
 For we were not desirous to make an attack  
 upon them in their stronghold.
- 24 “And it came to pass that we kept spies out round about  
 to watch the movements of the Lamanites,  
 That they might not pass us by night nor by day  
 to make an attack upon our other cities  
 which were on the northward;
- 25 For we knew in those cities they were  
 not sufficiently strong to meet them;  
 Therefore, we were desirous—if they should pass by us—  
 to fall upon them in their rear,  
 And thus bring them up in the rear at the same time  
 they were met in the front;
- 26 We supposed that we could overpower them.
- “But behold, we were disappointed in this our desire—
- 27 They durst not pass by us with their whole army;  
 Neither durst they with a part, lest they should  
 not be sufficiently strong and they should fall;
- 28 Neither durst they march down  
 against the City of Zarahemla;  
 Neither durst they cross the head of Sidon  
 over to the City of Nephihah;
- 29 And thus, with their forces, they were determined  
 to maintain those cities which they had taken.
- 30 “And now it came to pass in the second month of this year,  
 there was brought unto us many provisions  
 from the fathers of those my two thousand sons;
- 31 And also there were sent unto us two thousand men  
 from the Land of Zarahemla;

1 65 BC  
 A 24:17-21

- 32 And thus we were prepared with ten thousand men  
and provisions for them,  
And also for their wives and their children.
- 33 “And the Lamanites, thus seeing our forces increase daily  
and provisions arrive for our support,  
They began to be fearful and began to sally forth,  
if it were possible to put an end to our  
receiving provisions and strength.
- 34 “Now when we saw that the Lamanites began to grow  
uneasy on this wise, we were desirous to bring  
a stratagem into an effect upon them;
- 35 Therefore, Antipus ordered that I should march forth  
with my little sons to a neighboring city, as if we  
were carrying provisions to a neighboring city;
- 36 And we were to march near the City Antiparah,  
as if we were going to the city beyond,  
in the borders by the seashore.
- 37 “And it came to pass that we did march forth  
as if, with our provisions, to go to that city.
- 38 “And it came to pass that Antipus did march forth  
with a part of his army, leaving the remainder  
to maintain the city;
- 39 But he did not march forth until I had gone forth with  
my little army and came near the City Antiparah;
- 40 And now in the City Antiparah were stationed the  
strongest army of the Lamanites, yea, the most numerous.
- \41 “And it came to pass that when they  
had been informed by their spies,  
They came forth with their army and marched against us.
- 42 “And it came to pass that we did  
flee before them, northward.
- 43 “And thus we did lead away the most powerful army of  
the Lamanites, yea, even to a considerable distance,  
Insomuch that when they saw the army of Antipus  
pursuing them with their mights, they did not  
turn to the right nor to the left,  
But pursued their march in a straight course after us,
- 44 And as we suppose, that it was their intent to slay us  
before Antipus should overtake them,

And this that they might not be surrounded by our people.

- 45 “And now Antipus, beholding our danger,  
did speed the march of his army;
- 46 But behold, it was night,  
Therefore, they did not overtake us;  
Neither did Antipus overtake them,  
Therefore, we did camp for the night.
- 47 “And it came to pass that before the dawn of the morning,  
behold, the Lamanites were pursuing us;
- 48 Now we were not sufficiently strong to contend with them;  
Yea, I would not suffer that my little sons  
should fall into their hands;  
Therefore, we did continue our march  
and we took our march into the wilderness.
- 49 “Now they durst not turn to the right nor to the left,  
lest they should be surrounded;  
Neither would I turn to the right or to the left,  
lest they should overtake me and we could  
not stand against them, but be slain,  
And they would make their escape.
- “And thus we did flee all that day into the wilderness,  
even until it was dark.
- 50 “And it came to pass that again when the light of the  
morning came, we saw the Lamanites upon us,  
And we did flee before them;
- 51 But it came to pass that they did not  
pursue us far before they halted;  
And it was in the morning of the third day  
on the seventh month.
- 52 “And now whether they were overtaken  
by Antipus, we knew not;  
But I said unto my men:  
‘Behold, we know not but they have halted for the  
purpose that we should come against them,  
that they might catch us in their snare;  
Therefore, what say ye, my sons?  
Will ye go against them to battle?’
- 53 “And now I say unto you, my beloved brother Moroni,  
that never had I seen so great courage,

a A 26:95-96, 103

- 54           nay, not amongst all the Nephites;  
 For as I had ever called them my sons—for they were  
       all of them very young—even so they said unto me:  
 ‘Father, behold, our God is with us and He will  
       not suffer that we shall fall,  
 Then let us go forth;  
 55   We would not slay our brethren if they would let us alone;  
 Therefore, let us go lest they should  
       overpower the army of Antipus.’  
 56   “Now they never had fought, yet they did not fear death;  
 And they did think more upon the liberty of their fathers  
       than they did upon their lives;  
 Yea, they had been taught by their <sup>a</sup>mothers that if  
       they did not doubt, that God would deliver them;  
 57   And they rehearsed unto me the words  
       of their mothers, saying:  
 ‘We do not doubt our mothers knew.’  
 58   “And it came to pass that I did return with my two  
       thousand against these Lamanites which had pursued us.  
 59   “And now behold, the armies of Antipus had overtaken  
       them and a terrible battle had commenced;  
 60   The army of Antipus, being weary because of their long  
       march in so short a space of time, were about  
       to fall into the hands of the Lamanites;  
       And had I not returned with my two thousand,  
       they would have obtained their purpose,  
 61   For Antipus had fallen by the sword, and many of his  
       leaders because of their weariness which was  
       occasioned by the speed of their march;  
       Therefore, the men of Antipus, being confused  
       because of *the* fall of their leaders,  
       began to give way before the Lamanites.  
 62   “And it came to pass that the Lamanites took courage  
       and began to pursue them;  
       And thus were the Lamanites pursuing them with great  
       vigor when Helaman came upon their rear with his  
       two thousand and began to slay them exceedingly,  
       Insomuch that the whole army of the Lamanites  
       halted and turned upon Helaman.  
 63   “Now when the people of Antipus saw that the Lamanites

had turned them about,  
They gathered together their men and came again  
upon the rear of the Lamanites.

64 “And now it came to pass that we—the people of Nephi,  
the people of Antipus and I with my two thousand—  
did surround the Lamanites and did slay them,  
Yea, insomuch that they were compelled to deliver up  
their weapons of war, and also themselves  
as prisoners of war.

65 “And now it came to pass that when they  
had surrendered themselves up unto us,  
Behold, I numbered those young men which had fought  
with me, fearing lest there were many of them slain;  
66 But behold, to my great joy, there had not one soul  
of them fallen to the earth!

Yea, and they had fought as if with the strength of God;  
Yea, never were men known to have fought  
with such miraculous strength;

67 And with such mighty power did they fall upon  
the Lamanites that they did frighten them;  
And for this cause did the Lamanites deliver  
themselves up as prisoners of war.

68 “And as we had no place for our prisoners  
that we could guard them to keep them  
from the armies of the Lamanites,  
Therefore, we sent them to the Land of Zarahemla—  
and a part of those men which were not slain  
of Antipus with them—

69 And the remainder I took and joined them  
to my stripling Ammonites and took  
our march back to the City of Judeah.

70 “And now it came to pass that I received  
an epistle from Ammaron, the king,  
Stating that if I would deliver up those prisoners  
of war which we had taken, that he would  
deliver up the City of Antiparah.

71 “But I sent an epistle unto the king that we were sure  
our forces were sufficient to take  
the City of Antiparah by our force;  
And by delivering up the prisoners for that city,

- we should suppose ourselves unwise,  
And that we would only deliver up  
our prisoners on exchange.
- 72 “And Ammaron refused mine epistle,  
for he would not exchange prisoners;  
Therefore, we began to make preparations  
to go against the City of Antiparah;
- 73 But the people of Antiparah did leave the city  
and fled to their other cities which they  
had possession of, to fortify them;  
And thus the City of Antiparah fell into our hands.
- 1 64 BC  
A 24:22-79 74 “And thus ended the <sup>1</sup>twenty and eighth year  
of the reign of the judges.
- 2 63 BC  
A 25:1-63 75 “And it came to pass that in the commencement  
of the <sup>2</sup>twenty and ninth year,  
We received a supply of provisions, and also  
an addition to our army, from the Land of  
Zarahemla and from the land round about,  
To the number of six thousand men, besides sixty  
of the sons of the Ammonites which had come to  
join their brethren, my little band of two thousand.
- 76 “And now behold, we were strong;  
Yea, and we had also a plenty of provisions brought to us.
- 77 “And it came to pass that it was our desire to wage  
a battle with the army which was placed  
to protect the City Cumeni.
- 78 “And now behold, I will show unto you  
that we soon accomplished our desire;  
Yea, with our strong force, or with a part of our strong  
force, we did surround by night the City Cumeni a  
little before they were to receive a supply of provisions.
- 79 “And it came to pass that we did camp  
round about the city for many nights;  
But we did sleep upon our swords and keep guards,  
that the Lamanites could not come upon us by night  
and slay us, which they attempted many times;  
But as many times as they attempted this,  
their blood was spilt.

- 80 “At length their provisions did arrive,  
And they were about to enter the city by night;
- 81 And we, instead of being Lamanites, were Nephites,  
therefore, we did take them and their provisions;
- 82 And notwithstanding the Lamanites being cut off  
from their support, after this manner, they  
were still determined to maintain the city;
- 83 Therefore, it became expedient that we should take  
those provisions and send them to Judeah and  
our prisoners to the Land of Zarahemla.
- 84 “And it came to pass that not many days had passed away  
before the Lamanites began to lose all hopes of succor;  
Therefore, they yielded up the city into our hands.
- “And thus we had accomplished our designs  
in obtaining the City Cumeni.
- 85 “But it came to pass that our prisoners were so numerous  
that, notwithstanding the enormity of our number,  
We were obliged to employ all our force  
o keep them or put them to death.
- 86 “For behold, they would break out in great numbers  
and would fight with stones and with clubs or  
whatsoever thing they could get into their hands,  
Insomuch that we did slay upwards of two thousand  
of them after they had surrendered themselves  
prisoners of war;
- 87 Therefore, it became expedient for us  
that we should put an end to their lives,  
Or guard them, sword in hand,  
down to the Land of Zarahemla;
- 88 And also our provisions were not any more  
than sufficient for our own people,  
Notwithstanding that which we had taken  
from the Lamanites.
- 89 “And now in those critical circumstances, it became  
a very serious matter to determine concerning  
these prisoners of war,  
Nevertheless, we did resolve to send them  
down to the Land of Zarahemla;
- 90 Therefore, we selected a part of our men and gave them  
charge over our prisoners to go down  
to the Land of Zarahemla.

- 91 “But it came to pass that on the morrow, they did return;  
 And now behold, we did not inquire of them  
 concerning the prisoners,  
 For behold, the Lamanites were upon us,  
 And they returned in season to save us  
 from falling into their hands;
- 92 For behold, Ammaron had sent to their support a new  
 supply of provisions, and also a numerous army of men;
- 93 And it came to pass that those men which we sent with  
 the prisoners did arrive in season to check them  
 as they were about to overpower us.
- 94 “But behold, my little band of two thousand and sixty  
 fought most desperately,  
 Yea, they were firm before the Lamanites and did  
 administer death unto all those who opposed them;
- 95 And as the remainder of our army were about to give way  
 before the Lamanites,  
 Behold, these two thousand and sixty  
 were <sup>a</sup>firm and undaunted,  
 Yea, and they did obey and observe to perform  
 every word of command with exactness,
- 96 Yea, and even according to their faith,  
 it was done unto them;  
 And I did remember the words which they said unto me  
 that their mothers had taught them.
- 97 “And now behold, it was these—my sons and those men  
 which had been selected to convey the prisoners—  
 to whom we owe this great victory,  
 For it was they who did beat the Lamanites;  
 Therefore, they were driven back to the City of Manti,
- 98 And we retained our City Cumeni and were  
 not all destroyed by the sword;  
 Nevertheless, we had suffered great loss.
- 99 “And it came to pass that after the Lamanites had fled,  
 I immediately gave orders that my men which had been  
 wounded should be taken from among the dead  
 and caused that their wounds should be dressed.
- 100 “And it came to pass that there were two hundred  
 out of my two thousand and sixty which had fainted  
 because of the loss of blood;
- 101 Nevertheless, according to the goodness of God—and to

a Jac 3:7

- our great astonishment, and also the joy of our whole  
 army—there was not one soul of them which did perish,  
 Yea, and neither was there one soul among them  
 which had not received many wounds;
- 102 And now, their preservation was astonishing  
 to our whole army,  
 Yea, that they should be spared while there was  
 a thousand of our brethren which were slain.
- 103 “And we do justly ascribe it to the miraculous power  
 of God, because of their exceeding faith  
 in that which they had been taught to believe—  
 That there was a just God,  
 And whosoever did not doubt, that they should  
 be preserved by His marvelous power.
- 104 “Now this was the faith of these of which I have spoken;  
 They are young and their minds are firm,  
 And they do put their trust in God continually.
- 105 “And now it came to pass that after we had thus taken care  
 of our wounded men and had buried our dead, and  
 also the dead of the Lamanites, which were many,  
 Behold, we did inquire of Gid concerning the prisoners  
 which they had started to go down  
 to the Land of Zarahemla with;
- 106 Now Gid was the chief captain over the band which  
 was appointed to guard them down to that land.
- 107 “And now, these are the words which Gid said unto me:  
 ‘Behold, we did start to go down to the  
 Land of Zarahemla with our prisoners;
- 108 And it came to pass that we did meet the spies  
 of our armies which had been sent out  
 to watch the camp of the Lamanites,
- 109 And they cried unto us, saying:  
 “Behold, the armies of the Lamanites are  
 a marching toward the City of Cumeni;  
 And behold, they will fall upon them  
 and will destroy our people!”
- 110 ‘And it came to pass that our prisoners did hear their cries,  
 which caused them to take courage;  
 And they did raise up in rebellion against us.
- 111 ‘And it came to pass because of their rebellion, we did

- cause that our swords should come upon them.
- 112 ‘And it came to pass that they did, in a body,  
run upon our swords, in the which  
the greater number of them were slain,  
And the remainder of them broke through  
and fled from us.
- 113 ‘And behold, when they had fled and we could  
not overtake them, we took our march  
with speed toward the City Cumeni;  
And behold, we did arrive in time that we might  
assist our brethren in preserving the city.
- 114 ‘And behold, we are again delivered  
out of the hands of our enemies;
- 115 And blessed is the name of our God!  
For behold, it is He that hath delivered us,  
yea, that hath done this great thing for us.’
- 116 “Now it came to pass that when I, Helaman, had heard  
these words of Gid, I was filled with exceeding joy,  
Because of the goodness of God in preserving us  
that we might not all perish;
- 117 Yea, and I trust that the souls of them which have  
been slain have entered into the rest of their God.
- 118 “And behold, now it came to pass that our next object  
was to obtain the City of Manti;  
But behold, there was no way that we could  
lead them out of the city by our small bands,
- 119 For behold, they remembered that which  
we had hitherto done;  
Therefore, we could not decoy them  
away from their strongholds;
- 120 And they were so exceeding more numerous  
than was our army that we durst not go forth  
and attack them in their strongholds.
- 121 “Yea, and it became expedient that we should employ  
our men to the maintaining those parts of the land  
of the which we had retained of our possessions;
- 122 Therefore, it became expedient that we should wait,  
that we might receive more strength from the Land  
of Zarahemla, and also a new supply of provisions.

- 123 “And it came to pass that I thus did send an embassy  
to the great governor of our land, to acquaint him  
concerning the affairs of our people.
- 124 “And it came to pass that we did wait to receive provisions  
and strength from the Land of Zarahemla;
- 125 But behold, this did not profit us but little,  
For the Lamanites were also receiving great strength  
from day to day, and also many provisions.
- “And thus were our circumstances at this period of time.
- 126 “And the Lamanites were sallying forth against us from  
time to time, resolving by stratagem to destroy us;  
Nevertheless, we could not come to battle with them,  
because of their retreats and their strongholds.
- 127 “And it came to pass that we did wait in these difficult  
circumstances for the space of many months, even  
until we were about to perish for the want of food.
- 128 “But it came to pass that we did receive food  
which was guarded to us by an army  
of two thousand men, to our assistance;
- 129 And this is all the assistance which we did receive,  
to defend ourselves and our country from falling  
into the hands of our enemies, yea, to contend  
with an enemy which was innumerable.
- 130 “And now the cause of these our embarrassments,  
or the cause why they did not send more strength  
unto us, we knew not;  
Therefore, we were grieved, and also filled with fear,  
lest by any means the judgments of God should come  
upon our land to our overthrow and utter destruction;
- 131 Therefore, we did pour out our souls in prayer to God  
that He would strengthen us and deliver us  
out of the hands of our enemies,  
Yea, and also give us strength that we might retain  
our cities and our lands and our possessions  
for the support of our people.
- 132 “Yea, and it came to pass that the Lord our God did  
visit us with assurances that He would deliver us,  
Yea, insomuch that He did speak peace to our souls and  
did grant unto us great faith and did cause us

a Mos 5:52

- that we should hope for our <sup>a</sup>deliverance in Him;
- 133 And we did take courage with our small force  
which we had received,  
And were fixed with a determination to conquer  
our enemies and to maintain our lands  
and our possessions and our wives and  
our children and the cause of our liberty.
- 134 “And thus we did go forth with all our might against  
the Lamanites which were in the City of Manti;  
And we did pitch our tents by the wilderness side,  
which was near to the city.
- 135 “And it came to pass on the morrow that when  
the Lamanites saw that we were in the borders  
by the wilderness, which was near the city,  
That they sent out their spies round about us  
that they might discover the number  
and the strength of our army.
- 136 “And it came to pass that when they saw that we  
were not strong, according to our numbers,  
And fearing that we should cut them off  
from their support, except they should  
come out to battle against us and kill us,
- 137 And also supposing that they could easily  
destroy us with their numerous hosts,  
Therefore, they began to make preparations  
to come out against us to battle.
- 138 “And when we saw that they were making  
preparations to come out against us,  
Behold, I caused that Gid, with a small number  
of men, should secrete himself in the wilderness,  
And also that Teomner should with a small number  
of men secrete themselves also in the wilderness.
- 139 “Now Gid and his men were on the right  
and the others on the left;  
And when they had thus secreted themselves,  
behold, I remained with the remainder of my army  
in that same place where we had first pitched our tents,  
Against the time that the Lamanites  
should come out to battle.
- 140 “And it came to pass that the Lamanites did come out

- with their numerous army against us;
- 141 And when they had come and were about  
to fall upon us with the sword,  
I caused that my men, those which were with me,  
should retreat into the wilderness.
- 142 “And it came to pass that the Lamanites  
did follow after us with great speed,  
For they were exceedingly desirous  
to overtake us that they might slay us;  
Therefore, they did follow us into the wilderness;
- 143 And we did pass by in the midst of Gid and Teomner  
insomuch that they were not discovered  
by the Lamanites.
- 144 “And it came to pass that when the Lamanites  
had passed by, or when the army had passed by,  
Gid and Teomner did rise up from their secret places  
and did cut off the spies of the Lamanites,  
that they should not return to the city.
- 145 “And it came to pass that when they had cut them off,  
They ran to the city and fell upon the guards which  
were left to guard the city, insomuch that they did  
destroy them and did take possession of the city.
- 146 “Now this was done because the Lamanites did  
suffer their whole army, save a few guards only,  
to be led away into the wilderness.
- 147 “And it came to pass that Gid and Teomner, by this  
means, had obtained possession of their stronghold.
- 148 “And it came to pass that we took our course  
after having traveled much in the wilderness  
toward the Land of Zarahemla;
- 149 And when the Lamanites saw that they were marching  
toward the Land of Zarahemla,  
They were exceeding afraid, lest there was  
a plan laid to lead them on to destruction;  
Therefore, they began to retreat into the wilderness again,  
yea, even back by the same way which they had come.
- 150 “And behold, it was night and they did pitch their tents;  
For the chief captains of the Lamanites supposing that  
the Nephites were weary because of their march,

- And supposing that they had driven their whole army,  
Therefore, they took no thought concerning  
the City of Manti.
- 151 “Now it came to pass that when it was night,  
that I caused that my men should not sleep,  
But that they should march forward by another way  
toward the Land of Manti;
- 152 And because of this our march in the nighttime, behold, on  
the morrow, we were beyond the Lamanites, insomuch  
that we did arrive before them to the City of Manti.
- 153 “And thus it came to pass that by this stratagem,  
we did take possession of the City of Manti  
without the shedding of blood.
- 154 “And it came to pass that when the armies  
of the Lamanites did arrive near the city  
and saw that we were prepared to meet them,  
They were astonished exceedingly and struck with great  
fear, insomuch that they did flee into the wilderness.
- 155 “Yea, and it came to pass that the armies of the Lamanites  
did flee out of all this quarter of the land;
- 156 But behold, they have carried with them  
many women and children out of the land;
- 157 And those cities which had been taken by the Lamanites,  
all of them are at this period of time in our possession;  
And our fathers and our women and our children  
are returning to their homes,  
All, save it be those which have been taken prisoners  
and carried off by the Lamanites.
- 158 “But behold, our armies are small to maintain  
so great a number of cities and so great possessions.
- 159 “But behold, we trust that our God who  
hath given us victory over those lands,  
Insomuch that we have obtained those cities  
and those lands which were our own—
- 160 “For we do not know the cause that the government  
does not grant us more strength;  
Neither do those men which came up unto us  
know why we have not received greater strength;
- 161 Behold, we do not know but what ye are unsuccessful,

- And ye have drawn away the forces  
 into that quarter of the land;  
 If so, we do not desire to murmur;  
 162 And if it is not so, behold, we fear that there is  
 some <sup>a</sup>faction in the government that they  
 do not send more men to our assistance;  
 For we know that they are more numerous  
 than that which they have sent;  
 163 But behold, it mattereth not—  
 “We trust God will deliver us notwithstanding  
 the weakness of our armies,  
 Yea, and deliver us out of the hands of our enemies.
- 164 “Behold, this is the <sup>t</sup>twenty and ninth year, in the latter end,  
 And we are in the possession of our lands;  
 And the Lamanites have fled to the Land of Nephi.
- 165 “And those sons of the people of Ammon, of which I have  
 so highly spoken, are with me in the City of Manti;  
 And the Lord hath supported them,  
 yea, and kept them from falling by the sword,  
 insomuch that even one soul hath not been slain.
- 166 “But behold, they have received many wounds;  
 Nevertheless, they stand fast in that liberty  
 wherewith God hath made them free;  
 167 And they are strict to remember  
 the Lord their God from day to day;  
 Yea, they do observe to keep His statutes and His  
 judgments and His commandments continually;  
 And their faith is strong in the prophecies  
 concerning that which is to come.
- 168 “And now my beloved brother Moroni, that the Lord  
 our God who hath redeemed us and made us free  
 may keep you continually in His presence,  
 169 Yea, and that He may favor this people,  
 Even that ye may have success in obtaining the possession  
 of all that which the Lamanites hath taken from us,  
 which was for our support.
- 170 “And now behold, I close mine epistle;  
 I am Helaman, the son of Alma.”

a A ch 28

1 63 BC  
A 25:1-63

<sup>1</sup> 62 BC  
A 26:1; 29:12

a A ch 26

- 27** NOW IT came to pass in the <sup>1</sup>thirtieth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi, after Moroni had received and had read Helaman's <sup>a</sup>epistle, He was exceedingly rejoiced because of the welfare, yea, the exceeding success which Helaman had had in obtaining those lands which were lost;
- 2 Yea, and he did make it known unto all his people in all the land round about in that part where he was, that they might rejoice also.
- 3 And it came to pass that he immediately sent an epistle to Pahoron, Desiring that he should cause men to be gathered together to strengthen Helaman, or the armies of Helaman, Insomuch that he might with ease maintain that part of the land which he had been so miraculously prospered in retaining.
- 4 And it came to pass when Moroni had sent this epistle to the Land of Zarahemla, He began again to lay a plan that he might obtain the remainder of those possessions and cities which the Lamanites had taken from them.
- 5 And it came to pass that while Moroni was thus making preparations to go against the Lamanites to battle, Behold, the people of Nephihah which were gathered together from the City of Moroni and the City of Lehi and the City of Morionton were attacked by the Lamanites.
- 6 Yea, even those which had been compelled to flee from the Land of Manti and from the land round about had come over and joined the Lamanites in this part of the land;
- 7 And thus being exceeding numerous, yea, and receiving strength from day to day, By the command of Ammaron they came forth against the people of Nephihah, And they did begin to slay them with an exceeding great slaughter.
- 8 And their armies were so numerous that the remainder of the people of Nephihah were obliged to flee before them;

And they came even and joined the army of Moroni.

9 And now as Moroni had supposed that there should be men sent to the City of Nephihah to the assistance of the people to maintain that city, And knowing that it was easier to keep the city from falling into the hands of the Lamanites than to retake it from them,

He supposed that they would easily maintain that city;  
10 Therefore, he retained all his force to maintain those places which he had recovered.

11 And now when Moroni saw that the City of Nephihah was lost, He was exceeding sorrowful and began to doubt, because of the wickedness of the people, whether they should not fall into the hands of their brethren;  
12 Now this was the case with all his chief captains that doubted and marveled also because of the wickedness of the people, And this because of the success of the Lamanites over them.

13 And it came to pass that Moroni was angry with the government because of their indifference concerning the <sup>a</sup>freedom of their country.

a Mos 13:45

14 And it came to pass that he wrote again to the governor of the land, which was Pahoron, And these are the words which he wrote, saying: “Behold, I direct mine epistle to Pahoron, in the City of Zarahemla, which is the chief judge and the governor over the land, And also to all those who hath been chosen by this people to govern and manage the affairs of this war;  
15 For behold, I have somewhat to say unto them by the way of condemnation.

“For behold, ye yourselves know that ye have been appointed to gather together men, And arm them with swords and with scimitars and all manner of weapons of war of every kind, And send forth against the Lamanites in whatsoever parts they should come into our land.

16 “And now behold, I say unto you that myself

and also my men and also Helaman and his men  
 have suffered exceeding great sufferings—  
 Yea, even hunger, thirst and fatigue and  
 all manner of afflictions of every kind.

- 17 “But behold, were this all we had suffered,  
 we would not murmur nor complain;  
 But behold, great has been the slaughter  
 among our people—
- 18 Yea, thousands have fallen by the sword,  
 While it might have otherwise been if ye had rendered unto  
 our armies sufficient strength and succor for them;
- 19 Yea, great has been your neglect toward us.  
 “And now behold, we desire to know the cause  
 of this exceeding great neglect;  
 Yea, we desire to know the cause of your thoughtless state.
- 20 “Can you think to sit upon your thrones in a state  
 of thoughtless stupor, while your enemies  
 are spreading the work of death around you?
- 21 Yea, while they are murdering thousands of your brethren?  
 Yea, even they which have looked up to you for  
 protection—yea, have <sup>a</sup>placed you in a situation  
 that ye might have succored them?
- 22 “Yea, ye might have sent armies unto them  
 to have strengthened them and have saved  
 thousands of them from falling by the sword!
- 23 “But behold, this is not all—  
 Ye have withheld your provisions from them,  
 Insomuch that many have fought and bled out their lives  
 because of their great desires which they had  
 for the welfare of this people;
- 24 Yea, and this they have done when they were  
 about to perish with hunger because of your  
 exceeding great neglect toward them.
- 25 “And now, my beloved brethren—for ye had ought  
 to be beloved—  
 Yea, and ye had ought to have stirred yourselves more  
 diligently for the welfare and the freedom of this people;
- 26 But behold, ye have neglected them insomuch  
 that the blood of thousands shall come  
 upon your heads for vengeance;

a A 22:42

- Yea, for known unto God were all their cries  
and all their sufferings.
- 27 “Behold, could ye suppose that ye could  
sit upon your thrones,  
And because of the exceeding goodness of God,  
ye could do nothing and He would deliver you?  
Behold, if ye have supposed this, ye have supposed in vain.
- 28 “Do ye suppose that, because so many of your brethren  
have been killed because of their wickedness?  
I say unto you, if ye have supposed this,  
ye have supposed in vain;  
For I say unto you, that there are many  
which have fallen by the sword.
- 29 “And behold, it is to your condemnation;  
For the Lord suffereth the righteous to be slain that  
His justice and judgment may come upon the wicked;  
Therefore, ye need not suppose that the righteous  
are lost because they are slain;  
But behold, they do enter into  
the rest of the Lord their God.
- 30 “And now behold, I say unto you,  
I fear exceedingly that the judgments of God will come  
upon this people because of their exceeding slothfulness,  
Yea, even the slothfulness of our government and  
their exceeding great neglect toward their brethren,  
yea, toward those which have been slain.
- 31 “For were it not for the wickedness  
which first commenced at our head,  
We could have withstood our enemies,  
that they could have gained no power over us—  
“Yea, had it not been for the war  
which broke out among ourselves—
- 32 “Yea, were it not for those Kingmen which caused  
so much bloodshed <sup>a</sup>among ourselves—
- “Yea, at the time we were contending among ourselves, if  
we had united our strength as we hitherto have done—
- 33 “Yea, had it not been for the desire of power  
and authority which those Kingmen had over us—

a A 23:16-26

“Had they been true to the cause of our freedom and united with us and gone forth against our enemies instead of taking up their swords against us, which was the cause of so much bloodshed among ourselves—

- 34 “Yea, if we had gone forth against them, in the strength of the Lord—  
We should have dispersed our enemies,  
For it would have been done according to the <sup>a</sup>fulfilling of His word.
- 35 “But behold, now the Lamanites are coming upon us,  
And they are murdering our people with the sword,  
yea, our women and our children,  
Taking possession of our lands, and also carrying them away captive,  
Causing them that they should suffer all manner of afflictions;  
And this because of the great wickedness of those who are seeking for power and authority,  
yea, even those Kingmen.
- 36 “But why should I say much concerning this matter?  
For we know not but what ye yourselves are a seeking for authority;  
We know not but what ye are also traitors to your country;
- 37 Or is it that ye have neglected us because ye are in the heart of our country and ye are surrounded by security,  
That ye do not cause food to be sent unto us,  
and also men to strengthen our armies?
- 38 “Have ye forgot the commandments of the Lord your God?  
Yea, have ye forgot the captivity of our fathers?
- 39 Have ye forgot the many times we have been delivered out of the hands of our enemies?
- 40 Or do ye suppose that the Lord will still deliver us while we sit upon our thrones and do not make use of the means which the Lord hath provided for us?
- 41 “Yea, will ye sit in idleness, while ye are surrounded with thousands of those, yea, and tens of thousands of those which do also sit in idleness?  
While there are thousands round about in the borders

a 2N 1:34

of the land which are falling by the sword,  
yea, wounded and bleeding?

42 “Do ye suppose that God will look upon you as guiltless,  
while ye sit still and behold these things?  
Behold, I say unto you, Nay!

43 “Now I would that ye should remember that God hath  
said that the inward vessel shall be cleansed first,  
And then shall the outer vessel be cleansed also.

44 “And now except ye do repent of that which ye  
have done and begin to be up and doing,  
And send forth food and men unto us, and also  
unto Helaman that he may support those parts  
of our country which he hath obtained,  
And that we may also recover the remainder  
of our possessions in these parts,  
Behold, it will be expedient that we contend no more with  
the Lamanites until we have first cleansed our inward  
vessel, yea, even the great head of our government.

45 “And except ye grant mine epistle and come out  
and show unto me a true spirit of <sup>a</sup>freedom,  
And strive to strengthen and fortify our armies  
and grant unto them food for their support,  
Behold, I will leave a part of my Freemen  
to maintain this part of our land;  
And I will leave the strength and the blessings of God upon  
them, that none other power can operate against them—  
and this because of their exceeding faith and their  
patience in their tribulations—

a A 21:41

46 And I will come unto you;  
And if there be any among you that hath a desire  
for freedom, yea, if there be even  
a spark of freedom remaining,  
Behold, I will stir up insurrections among you,  
even until those who hath desires to usurp power  
and authority shall become extinct.

47 “Yea, behold I do not fear your power nor your authority,  
But it is my God whom I fear;  
And it is according to His <sup>b</sup>commandments that I do  
take my sword to defend the cause of my country;  
And it is because of your iniquity that we have

b A 21:136-137

- suffered so much loss.
- 48 “Behold, it is time;  
Yea, the time is now at hand, that except ye do bestir  
yourselves in the defense of your country and your  
little ones, the sword of justice doth hang over you—  
Yea, and it shall fall upon you and visit you  
even to your utter destruction.
- 49 “Behold, I wait for assistance from you;  
And except ye do administer unto our relief,  
Behold, I come unto you—even into the Land  
of Zarahemla—and smite you with the sword,  
Insomuch that ye can have no more power to impede  
the progress of this people in the cause of our freedom;
- 50 For behold, the Lord will not suffer that ye shall live  
and wax strong in your iniquities  
to destroy His righteous people.
- 51 “Behold, can you suppose that the Lord will spare you  
and come out in judgment against the Lamanites,  
when it is the tradition of their fathers  
that hath caused their hatred?
- 52 Yea, and it hath been redoubled by those  
which have dissented from us,  
While your iniquity is for the cause of your love  
of glory and the vain things of the world.
- 53 “Ye know that ye do transgress the laws of God,  
And ye do know that ye do trample them under your feet.
- 54 “Behold, the Lord saith unto me:  
‘If those whom ye have appointed your governors  
do not repent of their sins and iniquities,  
ye shall go up to battle against them.’
- 55 “And now behold, I, Moroni, am constrained,  
according to the covenant which I have made,  
to keep the commandments of my God;  
Therefore, I would that ye should adhere to the word  
of God and send speedily unto me of your provisions  
and of your men, and also to Helaman;
- 56 And behold, if ye will not do this,  
I come unto you speedily;  
For behold, God will not suffer  
that we should perish with hunger;

- Therefore, He will give unto us of your food,  
 even if it must be by the sword;  
 57 Now see that ye fulfill the word of God.
- 58 “Behold, I am Moroni, your chief captain;  
 I seek not for power, but to pull it down;  
 59 I seek not for honor of the world, but for the glory of  
 my God and the freedom and welfare of my country;  
 And thus I close mine epistle.”

**28** BEHOLD, NOW it came to pass that soon after  
 Moroni had sent his epistle unto the chief governor,  
 He received an epistle from Pahoron, the chief governor.

- 2 And these are the words which he received:  
 “I, Pahoron, which art the chief governor of this land,  
 do send these words unto Moroni,  
 the chief captain over the army.
- “Behold I say unto you, Moroni, that I do not joy  
 in your great afflictions, yea, it grieves my soul.
- 3 “But behold, there are those who do joy in your afflictions,  
 Yea, insomuch that they have risen up in rebellion against  
 me, and also those of my people which are Freemen.
- “Yea, and those which have risen up  
 are exceeding numerous;
- 4 And it is those who have sought to take away  
 the judgment seat from me that have been  
 the cause of this great iniquity;
- 5 For they have used great flattery,  
 And they have led away the hearts of many people,  
 which will be the cause of sore affliction among us;  
 They have withheld our provisions and have daunted  
 our Freemen, that they have not come unto you.
- 6 “And behold, they have driven me out before them,  
 And I have fled to the Land of Gideon with as many men  
 as it were possible that I could get.
- 7 “And behold, I have sent a proclamation  
 throughout this part of the land;  
 And behold, they are flocking to us daily, to their arms,  
 in the defense of their country and their freedom

- and to avenge our wrongs.
- 8 “And they have come unto us, insomuch that those which have risen up in rebellion against us are set at defiance, Yea, insomuch that they do fear us and durst not come out against us to battle.
- 9 “They have got possession of the Land—  
or the City of Zarahemla;  
They have appointed a king over them and he hath written unto the king of the Lamanites—  
In the which he hath joined an alliance with him,  
10 In the which alliance, he hath agreed  
to maintain the City of Zarahemla,  
In the which maintenance, he supposeth will enable the Lamanites to conquer the remainder of the land;  
And he shall be placed king over this people when they shall be conquered under the Lamanites.
- 11 “And now, in your epistle ye hath censured me,  
but it mattereth not—  
I am not angry, but do rejoice in the greatness of your heart.
- 12 “I, Pahoron, do not seek for power, save only to retain my judgment seat, that I may preserve the rights and the liberty of my people;
- 13 My soul standeth fast in that liberty  
in the which God hath made us free!
- 14 “And now behold, we will resist wickedness,  
even unto bloodshed;
- 15 We would not shed the blood of the Lamanites,  
if they would stay in their own land;
- 16 We would not shed the blood of our brethren,  
if they would not rise up in rebellion  
and take the sword against us;
- 17 We would subject ourselves to the yoke of bondage,  
if it were requisite with the justice of God,  
or if He should command us so to do.
- 18 “But behold, He doth not command us that we shall subject ourselves to our enemies,  
But that we should put our trust in Him  
and He will deliver us;

- 19 Therefore, my beloved brother Moroni, let us resist evil;  
 And whatsoever evil we cannot resist with our words—  
 yea, such as rebellions and dissensions—  
 Let us resist them with our swords,  
 that we may retain our freedom,  
 That we may rejoice in the great privilege of our church  
 and in the cause of our Redeemer and our God.
- 20 “Therefore, come unto me speedily  
 with a few of your men,  
 And leave the remainder in the charge  
 of Lehi and Teancum;  
 Give unto them power to conduct the war in that part  
 of the land, according to the Spirit of God—which  
 is also the spirit of freedom—which is in them;
- 21 Behold, I have sent a few provisions unto them, that  
 they may not perish until ye can come unto me.
- 22 “Gather together whatsoever force ye can  
 upon your march hither;  
 And we will go speedily against those dissenters  
 in the strength of our God, according to the faith  
 which is in us,
- 23 And we will take possession of the City of Zarahemla,  
 that we may obtain more food to send forth  
 unto Lehi and Teancum;  
 Yea, we will go forth against them  
 in the strength of the Lord,  
 And we will put an end to this great iniquity.
- 24 “And now, Moroni, I do joy in receiving your epistle;  
 For I was somewhat worried concerning what we  
 should do—whether it should be just in us  
 to go against our brethren;
- 25 But ye have said, ‘Except they repent, the Lord hath  
<sup>a</sup>commanded you that ye should go against them.’
- 26 “See that ye strengthen Lehi and Teancum in the Lord;  
 Tell them to fear not, for God will deliver them,  
 yea, and also all those who stand fast  
 in that liberty wherewith God hath made them free.
- 27 “And now I close mine epistle to my beloved brother,  
 Moroni.”

a A 27:53-55

- 29 AND NOW it came to pass that  
 when Moroni had received this epistle,  
 His heart did take courage and was filled with exceeding  
 great joy because of the faithfulness of Pahoron,  
 That he was not also a traitor to the freedom  
 and cause of his country;
- 2 But he did also mourn exceedingly because  
 of the iniquity of those who had driven  
 Pahoron from the judgment seat,  
 Yea, in fine, because of those who had rebelled  
 against their country, and also their God.
- 3 And it came to pass that Moroni took a small number  
 of men according to the desire of Pahoron,  
 And gave Lehi and Teancum command  
 over the remainder of his army,  
 And took his march toward the Land of Gideon;
- a A 21:41-43 4 And he did raise the <sup>a</sup>standard of liberty  
 in whatsoever place he did enter,  
 And gained whatsoever force he could  
 in all his march toward the Land of Gideon.
- 5 And it came to pass that thousands did flock unto his  
 standard and did take up their swords in the defense of  
 their freedom, that they might not come into bondage.
- 6 And thus when Moroni had gathered together  
 whatsoever men he could in all his march,  
 he came to the Land of Gideon;  
 And uniting his forces with that of Pahoron,  
 they became exceeding strong,  
 Even stronger than the men of Pachus, which was  
 the king of those dissenters which had driven out  
 the <sup>b</sup>Freemen out of the Land of Zarahemla  
 and had taken possession of the land.
- b A 23:6-8 7 And it came to pass that Moroni and Pahoron went  
 down with their armies into the Land of Zarahemla,  
 And went forth against the city and did meet the men  
 of Pachus, insomuch that they did come to battle.
- 8 And behold, Pachus was slain and his men  
 were taken prisoners;  
 And Pahoron was restored to his judgment seat.

- 9 And the men of Pachus received their trial according to the law, and also those <sup>a</sup>Kingmen which had been taken and cast into prison; And they were executed according to the law—
- 10 Yea, those men of Pachus and those Kingmen—whosoever would not take up arms in the defense of their country, but would fight against it—were put to death.
- 11 And thus it became expedient that this law should be strictly observed for the safety of their country; Yea, and whosoever was found denying their freedom was speedily executed according to the law.
- 12 And thus ended the <sup>b</sup>thirtieth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi, Moroni and Pahoron having restored peace to the Land of Zarahemla among their own people, Having inflicted death upon all those who were not true to the cause of freedom.
- 13 And it came to pass in the commencement of the <sup>1</sup>thirty and first year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi, Moroni immediately caused that provisions should be sent, and also an army of six thousand men should be sent unto Helaman, to assist him in preserving that part of the land;
- 14 And he also caused that an army of six thousand men, with a sufficient quantity of food, should be sent to the armies of Lehi and Teancum.
- 15 And it came to pass that this was done to fortify the land against the Lamanites.
- 16 And it came to pass that Moroni and Pahoron, leaving a large body of men in the Land of Zarahemla, Took their march with a large body of men toward the Land of Nephiah, Being determined to overthrow the Lamanites in that city.
- 17 And it came to pass that as they were marching toward the land, They took a large body of men of the Lamanites and slew many of them, And took their provisions and their weapons of war.

a A 23:21-23

b A 26:1; 27:1

1 61 BC

- 18 And it came to pass after they had taken them,  
They caused them to enter into a covenant  
that they would no more take up their  
weapons of war against the Nephites;
- 19 And when they had entered into this covenant, they  
sent them to dwell with the people of Ammon;  
And they were in number about four thousand  
which had not been slain.
- 20 And it came to pass that when they had  
sent them away, they pursued their  
march toward the Land of Nephihah.
- 21 And it came to pass that when they  
had come to the City Nephihah,  
They did pitch their tents in the Plains of Nephihah,  
which is near the City Nephihah.
- 22 Now Moroni was desirous that the Lamanites should  
come out to battle against them upon the plains;  
But the Lamanites knowing of their exceeding great  
courage and beholding the greatness of their numbers,  
Therefore, they durst not come out against them;  
Therefore, they did not come to battle in that day.
- 23 And when the night came, Moroni went forth in the  
darkness of the night and came upon the top of the  
wall to spy out in what part of the city  
the Lamanites did camp with their army.
- 24 And it came to pass that they were  
on the east by the entrance,  
And they were all asleep.
- 25 And now Moroni returned to his army and caused  
that they should prepare in haste strong cords  
and ladders to be let down from the top  
of the wall into the inner part of the wall.
- 26 And it came to pass that Moroni caused  
that his men should march forth and  
come up upon the top of the wall,  
And let themselves down into that part of the city—  
yea, even on the west—where the Lamanites  
did not camp with their armies.
- 27 And it came to pass that they were all let down

- into the city by night, by the means  
of their strong cords and their ladders;  
Thus when the morning came, they were  
all within the walls of the city.
- 28 And now when the Lamanites awoke and saw  
that the armies of Moroni were within the walls,  
They were affrightened exceedingly, insomuch  
that they did flee out by the pass.
- 29 And now when Moroni saw that  
they were fleeing before him,  
He did cause that his men should march forth  
against them and slew many and surrounded  
many others and took them prisoners;  
And the remainder of them fled into the Land of Moroni,  
which was in the borders by the seashore.
- 30 Thus had Moroni and Pahoron obtained the possession  
of the City of Nephihah without the loss of one soul;  
And there were many of the Lamanites which were slain.
- 31 Now it came to pass that as many of the Lamanites  
that were prisoners were desirous to join the  
people of Ammon and become a free people.
- 32 And it came to pass that as many as were desirous,  
unto them it was granted, according to their desires;  
Therefore, all the prisoners of the Lamanites  
did join the people of Ammon,  
And did begin to labor exceedingly, tilling the ground,  
raising all manner of grain and flocks  
and herds of every kind;
- 33 And thus were the Nephites relieved from a great burden,  
Yea, insomuch that they were relieved from  
all the prisoners of the Lamanites.
- 34 Now it came to pass that Moroni—  
After he had obtained possession of the City of Nephihah,  
Having taken many prisoners, which did reduce  
the armies of the Lamanites exceedingly,  
And having retained many of the Nephites which  
had been taken prisoners, which did strengthen  
the army of Moroni exceedingly—  
Therefore, Moroni went forth from the  
Land of Nephihah to the Land of Lehi.

- 35 And it came to pass that when the Lamanites  
saw that Moroni was a coming against them,  
They were again frightened and fled  
before the army of Moroni.
- 36 And it came to pass that Moroni and his army  
did pursue them from city to city, until they  
were met by Lehi and Teancum;  
And the Lamanites fled from Lehi and Teancum,  
even down upon the borders by the seashore,  
until they came to the Land of Moroni.
- 37 And the armies of the Lamanites were all gathered  
together, insomuch that they were all  
in one body in the Land of Moroni;
- 38 Now Ammaron, the king of the Lamanites,  
was also with them.
- 39 And it came to pass that Moroni and Lehi and Teancum  
did encamp with their armies round about  
in the borders of the Land of Moroni,  
Insomuch that the Lamanites were encircled about  
in the borders by the wilderness on the south,  
and in the borders by the wilderness on the east;  
And thus they did encamp for the night.
- 40 For behold, the Nephites and the Lamanites also  
were weary because of the greatness of the march;  
Therefore, they did not resolve upon any stratagem  
in the nighttime, save it were Teancum;
- 41 For he was exceeding angry with Ammaron,  
Insomuch that he considered that Ammaron and  
Amalickiah, his brother, had been the cause of this  
great and lasting war between them and the Lamanites,  
Which had been the cause of so much war and bloodshed,  
yea, and so much famine.
- 42 And it came to pass that Teancum—in his anger—  
did go forth into the camp of the Lamanites  
and did let himself down over the walls of the city;
- 43 And he went forth with a cord from place to place,  
insomuch that he did find the king;  
And he did cast a <sup>a</sup>javelin at him,  
which did pierce him near the heart;
- 44 But behold, the king did awake his servant before he died,

a A 23:41

insomuch that they did pursue Teancum and slew him.

- 45 Now it came to pass that when Lehi and Moroni knew  
that Teancum was dead, they were exceeding sorrowful;  
For behold, he had been a man which had fought valiantly  
for his country, yea, a true friend to liberty,  
And he had suffered very many exceeding sore afflictions;
- 46 But behold, he was dead and had gone  
the way of all the earth.
- 47 Now it came to pass that Moroni marched forth on  
the morrow and came upon the Lamanites, insomuch  
that they did slay them with a great slaughter;  
And they did drive them out of the land;  
And they did flee, even that they did not return  
at that time against the Nephites.
- 48 And thus ended the thirty and first year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi;  
And thus they had had wars and bloodsheds and famine  
and affliction for the space of many years;
- 49 And there had been murders and contentions  
and dissensions and all manner of iniquity  
among the people of Nephi;  
Nevertheless, for the righteous' sake, yea, because  
of the prayers of the righteous, they were spared.
- 50 But behold, because of the exceeding great length  
of the war between the Nephites and the Lamanites,  
Many had become hardened because of  
the exceeding great length of the war;
- 51 And many were softened because of their afflictions,  
insomuch that they did humble themselves before God,  
even in the depth of humility.
- 52 And it came to pass that after Moroni had fortified  
those parts of the land which were most exposed  
to the Lamanites until they were sufficiently strong,  
he returned to the City of Zarahemla,  
And also Helaman returned to the place of his inheritance;  
And there was once more peace established  
among the people of Nephi.
- 53 And Moroni yielded up the command of his armies into  
the hands of his son, whose name was Moronihah;  
And he retired to his own house, that he might spend

the remainder of his days in peace.

- 54 And Pahoron did return to his judgment seat;  
And Helaman did take upon him again to preach  
unto the people the word of God,  
For because of so many wars and contentions,  
it had become expedient that a regulation  
should be made again in the church;
- 55 Therefore, Helaman and his brethren went forth  
and did declare the word of God with much power,  
Unto the convincing of many people of their wickedness,  
which did cause them to repent of their sins  
and to be baptized unto the Lord their God.
- 56 And it came to pass that they did establish again the  
church of God throughout all the land;  
Yea, and regulations were made concerning the law;
- a Mos 13:56 57 And their judges and their chief judges were <sup>a</sup>chosen;  
58 And the people of Nephi began  
to prosper again in the land,  
And began to multiply and to wax  
exceeding strong again in the land;
- 59 And they began to grow exceeding rich.
- But notwithstanding their riches or their strength  
or their prosperity, they were not lifted up  
in the pride of their eyes;  
Neither were they slow to remember the Lord their God,  
But they did humble themselves exceedingly before Him;
- 60 Yea, they did remember how great things  
the Lord had done for them—  
That He had delivered them from death,  
and from bonds and from prisons,  
and from all manner of afflictions;  
And He had delivered them out of the hands  
of their enemies—
- 61 And they did pray unto the Lord their God continually,  
insomuch that the Lord did bless them  
according to His word,  
So that they did wax strong and prosper in the land.
- 62 And it came to pass that all these things were done.
- 1 57 BC 63 And Helaman died in the <sup>1</sup>thirty and fifth year  
of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

- 30 AND IT came to pass in the commencement  
of the <sup>1</sup>thirty and sixth year of the reign  
of the judges over the people of Nephi,  
That Shiblon took possession of those <sup>a</sup>sacred things  
which had been delivered unto Helaman by Alma;
- 2 And he was a just man,  
And he did walk uprightly before God,  
And he did observe to do good continually, to keep  
the commandments of the Lord his God,  
and also did his brother.
- 3 And it came to pass that Moroni died also;  
4 And thus ended the thirty and sixth year  
of the reign of the judges.
- 5 And it came to pass that in the <sup>2</sup>thirty and seventh year  
of the reign of the judges,  
There was a large company of men—even to the amount  
of five thousand and four hundred men, with their  
wives and their children—departed out of the Land  
of Zarahemla into the land which was northward.
- 6 And it came to pass that Hagoth,  
he being an exceeding curious man,  
Therefore, he went forth and built him an exceeding  
large ship on the borders of the Land Bountiful,  
by the Land Desolation,  
And launched it forth into the West Sea, by the  
Narrow Neck which led into the Land Northward.
- 7 And behold, there were many of the Nephites which did  
enter therein and did sail forth with much provisions,  
and also many women and children;  
And they took their course northward;
- 8 And thus ended the thirty and seventh year.
- 9 And in the <sup>3</sup>thirty and eighth year,  
this man built other ships;
- 10 And the first ship did also return  
and many more people did enter into it;  
And they also took much provisions  
and set out again to the Land Northward.
- 11 And it came to pass that they were never heard of more,  
And we suppose that they are drowned up  
in the depths of the sea.

1 56 BC

a A 17:31-32

2 55 BC

3 54 BC

- 12 And it came to pass that one other ship also did sail forth,  
And whither she did go, we know not.
- 13 And it came to pass that in this year, there were many  
people which went forth into the Land Northward;  
And thus ended the thirty and eighth year.
- 1 53 BC 14 And it came to pass in the <sup>1</sup>thirty and ninth year  
of the reign of the judges, Shiblon died also;  
And Coreanton had gone forth to the Land Northward  
in a ship, to carry forth provisions unto those people  
which had gone forth into that land;
- 15 Therefore, it became expedient for Shiblon to confer  
those sacred things before his death upon the son  
of Helaman, whose name was called Helaman,  
being called after the name of his father.
- a A 17:59-65 16 Now behold, all those engravings which were in the  
possession of Helaman were written and sent forth  
among the children of men throughout all the land,  
save it were those parts which had been commanded  
by Alma should <sup>a</sup>not go forth.
- 17 Nevertheless, these things were to be kept sacred and  
handed down from one generation to another;  
Therefore, in this year they had been conferred  
upon Helaman before the death of Shiblon.
- 18 And it came to pass also in this year that there were some  
dissenters which had gone forth unto the Lamanites;  
And they were stirred up again  
to anger against the Nephites.
- 19 And also in this same year, they came down with  
a numerous army to war against the people of  
Moronihah, or against the army of Moronihah,  
In the which they were beaten and driven back again  
to their own lands, suffering great loss.
- 20 And thus ended the thirty and ninth year of the  
reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.
- 21 And thus ended the account of Alma and Helaman,  
his son, and also Shiblon, which was his son.