

Chapters 17-26

*An account of the sons of Mosiah,
who rejected their rights to the kingdom for the word of God,
and went up to the land of Nephi to preach to the Lamanites; their sufferings and
deliverance*

*According to the record of Alma.
Comprising chapters 17 to 26 inclusive.*

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

*The sons of Mosiah have the spirit of prophecy and of revelation
They go their several ways to declare the word to the Lamanites
Ammon goes to the land of Ishmael and becomes the servant of King Lamoni
Ammon saves the king's flocks and slays his enemies at the waters of Sebus.*

1 And now it came to pass that as Alma was journeying from the land of Gideon southward,
away to the land of Manti, behold, to his astonishment, he met with the sons of Mosiah
2 journeying towards the land of Zarahemla. ■ Now these sons of Mosiah were with Alma at
the time the angel first appeared unto him; therefore Alma did rejoice exceedingly to see
his brethren; and what added more to his joy, they were still his brethren in the Lord; yea,
and they had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth; for they were men of a sound
understanding and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the
3 word of God. ■ But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting;
therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught,
4 they taught with power and authority of God. ■ And they had been teaching the word of
God *for the space of fourteen years among the Lamanites, having had much success in
bringing many to the knowledge of the truth; yea, by the power of their words many were
brought before the altar of God, to call on his name and confess their sins before him.

**From
about
91 to 77
B.C.**

5 Now these are the circumstances which attended them in their journeyings, for they had
many afflictions; they did suffer much, both in body and in mind, such as hunger, thirst
6 and fatigue, and also much labor in the spirit. ■ Now these were their journeyings: Having
taken leave of their father, Mosiah, in the first year of the judges; having refused the
kingdom which their father was desirous to confer upon them, and also this was the minds
7 of the people; ■ Nevertheless they departed out of the land of Zarahemla, and took their
swords, and their spears, and their bows, and their arrows, and their slings; and this they
8 did that they might provide food for themselves while in the wilderness. ■ And thus they
departed into the wilderness with their numbers which they had selected, to go up to the
land of Nephi, to preach the word of God unto the Lamanites.

9 And it came to pass that they journeyed many days in the wilderness, and they fasted much
and prayed much that the Lord would grant unto them a portion of his Spirit to go with
them, and abide with them, that they might be an instrument in the hands of God to bring,
if it were possible, their brethren, the Lamanites, to the knowledge of the truth, to the
knowledge of the baseness of the traditions of their fathers, which were not correct.

Page 251

10 And it came to pass that the Lord did visit them with his Spirit, and said unto them: Be
11 comforted. And they were comforted. ■ And the Lord said unto them also:

*“Go forth among the Lamanites, thy brethren, and establish my word;
yet ye shall be patient in long-suffering and afflictions,*

*that ye may show forth good examples unto them in me,
and I will make an instrument of thee in my hands
unto the salvation of many souls.”*

12 And it came to pass that the hearts of the sons of Mosiah, and also those who were with them, took courage to go forth unto the Lamanites to declare unto them the word of God.

13 And it came to pass when they had arrived in the borders of the land of the Lamanites, that they separated themselves and departed one from another, trusting in the Lord that they should meet again at the close of their harvest; for they supposed that great was the work which they had undertaken. ■ And assuredly it was great, for they had undertaken to preach the word of God to a wild and a hardened and a ferocious people; a people who delighted in murdering the Nephites, and robbing and plundering them; and their hearts were set upon riches, or upon gold and silver, and precious stones; yet they sought to obtain these things by murdering and plundering, that they might not labor for them with their own hands. ■ Thus they were a very indolent people, many of whom did worship idols, and the curse of God had fallen upon them because of the traditions of their fathers; notwithstanding the promises of the Lord were extended unto them on the conditions of repentance. ■ Therefore, this was the cause for which the sons of Mosiah had undertaken the work, that perhaps they might bring them unto repentance; that perhaps they might bring them to know of the plan of redemption. ■ Therefore they separated themselves one from another, and went forth among them, every man alone, according to the word and power of God which was given unto him.

18 Now Ammon being the chief among them, or rather he did administer unto them, and he departed from them, after having blessed them according to their several stations, having imparted the word of God unto them, or administered unto them before his departure; and thus they took their several journeys throughout the land. ■ And Ammon went to the land of Ishmael, the land being called after the sons of Ishmael, who also became Lamanites. 20 And as Ammon entered the land of Ishmael, the Lamanites took him and bound him, as was their custom to bind all the Nephites who fell into their hands, and carry them before the king; and thus it was left to the pleasure of the king to slay them, or to retain them in captivity, or to cast them into prison, or to cast them out of his land, according to his will and pleasure. ■ And thus Ammon was carried before the king who was over the land of Ishmael; and his name was Lamoni; and he was a descendant of Ishmael. ■ And the king inquired of Ammon if it were his desire to dwell in the land among the Lamanites, or among his people. And Ammon said unto him:

*“Yea, I desire to dwell among this people for a time;
yea, and perhaps until the day I die.”*

24 And it came to pass that king Lamoni was much pleased with Ammon, and caused that his bands should be loosed; and he would that Ammon should take one of his daughters to wife. ■ But Ammon said unto him:

“Nay, but I will be thy servant.”

Therefore Ammon became a servant to king Lamoni. And it came to pass that he was set among other servants to watch the flocks of Lamoni, according to the custom of the Lamanites. ■ And after he had been in the service of the king three days, as he was with the Lamanitish servants going forth with their flocks to the place of water, which was called the water of Sebus, and all the Lamanites drive their flocks hither, that they may have water-- ■ Therefore, as Ammon and the servants of the king were driving forth their flocks to this place of water, behold, a certain number of the Lamanites, who had been with their flocks to water, stood and scattered the flocks of Ammon and the servants of the

king, and they scattered them insomuch that they fled many ways.

28 Now the servants of the king began to murmur, saying:

“Now the king will slay us, as he has our brethren because their flocks were scattered by the wickedness of these men.”

And they began to weep exceedingly, saying:

“Behold, our flocks are scattered already.”

29 Now they wept because of the fear of being slain. Now when Ammon saw this his heart was swollen within him with joy; for, said he, I will show forth my power unto these my fellow-servants, or the power which is in me, in restoring these flocks unto the king, that I may win the hearts of these my fellow-servants, that I may lead them to believe in my words. ■ And now, these were the thoughts of Ammon, when he saw the afflictions of those whom he termed to be his brethren.

31 And it came to pass that he flattered them by his words, saying:

“My brethren, be of good cheer and let us go in search of the flocks, and we will gather them together and bring them back unto the place of water; and thus we will preserve the flocks unto the king and he will not slay us.”

32 And it came to pass that they went in search of the flocks, and they did follow Ammon, and they rushed forth with much swiftness and did head the flocks of the king, and did gather them together again to the place of water. ■ And those men again stood to scatter their flocks; but Ammon said unto his brethren:

“Encircle the flocks round about that they flee not; and I go and contend with these men who do scatter our flocks.”

34 Therefore, they did as Ammon commanded them, and he went forth and stood to contend with those who stood by the waters of Sebus; and they were in number not a few.

35 Therefore they did not fear Ammon, for they supposed that one of their men could slay him according to their pleasure, for they knew not that the Lord had promised Mosiah that he would deliver his sons out of their hands; neither did they know anything concerning the Lord; therefore they delighted in the destruction of their brethren; and for this cause they stood to scatter the flocks of the king.

Page 253

36 But Ammon stood forth and began to cast stones at them with his sling; yea, with mighty power he did sling stones amongst them; and thus he slew a certain number of them insomuch that they began to be astonished at his power; nevertheless they were angry because of the slain of their brethren, and they were determined that he should fall; therefore, seeing that they could not hit him with their stones, they came forth with clubs to slay him. ■ But behold, every man that lifted his club to smite Ammon, he smote off their arms with his sword; for he did withstand their blows by smiting their arms with the edge of his sword, insomuch that they began to be astonished, and began to flee before him; yea, and they were not few in number; and he caused them to flee by the strength of his arm.

38 Now six of them had fallen by the sling, but he slew none save it were their leader with his sword; and he smote off as many of their arms as were lifted against him, and they were not a few. ■ And when he had driven them afar off, he returned and they watered their flocks and returned them to the pasture of the king, and then went in unto the king, bearing the arms which had been smitten off by the sword of Ammon, of those who sought to slay him; and they were carried in unto the king for a testimony of the things which they had done.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

King Lamoni supposes Ammon is the Great Spirit

*Ammon teaches the king of the creation, of God's dealings with men,
and of the redemption that comes through Christ
Lamoni believes and falls to the earth as if dead.*

1 And it came to pass that king Lamoni caused that his servants should stand forth and
2 testify to all the things which they had seen concerning the matter. ■ And when they had all
testified to the things which they had seen, and he had learned of the faithfulness of
Ammon in preserving his flocks, and also of his great power in contending against those
who sought to slay him, he was astonished exceedingly, and said:

*“Surely, this is more than a man. Behold, is not this the Great Spirit who doth send
such great punishments upon this people, because of their murders?”*

3 And they answered the king, and said:

*“Whether he be the Great Spirit or a man, we know not; but this much we do know,
that he cannot be slain by the enemies of the king; neither can they scatter the king's
flocks when he is with us, because of his expertness and great strength; therefore, we
know that he is a friend to the king. And now, O king, we do not believe that a man
has such great power, for we know he cannot be slain.”*

4 And now, when the king heard these words, he said unto them:

*“Now I know that it is the Great Spirit; and he has come down at this time to
preserve your lives, that I might not slay you as I did your brethren. Now this is the
Great Spirit of whom our fathers have spoken.”*

5 Now this was the tradition of Lamoni, which he had received from his father, that there
was a Great Spirit. Notwithstanding they believed in a Great Spirit they supposed that
whatsoever they did was right; nevertheless, Lamoni began to fear exceedingly, with fear
6 lest he had done wrong in slaying his servants; ■ For he had slain many of them because
their brethren had scattered their flocks at the place of water; and thus, because they had
7 had their flocks scattered they were slain. ■ Now it was the practice of these Lamanites to
stand by the waters of Sebus to scatter the flocks of the people, that thereby they might
drive away many that were scattered unto their own land, it being a practice of plunder
among them.

Page 254

8 And it came to pass that king Lamoni inquired of his servants, saying:

“Where is this man that has such great power?”

9 And they said unto him:

”Behold, he is feeding thy horses.”

Now the king had commanded his servants, previous to the time of the watering of their
flocks, that they should prepare his horses and chariots, and conduct him forth to the land
of Nephi; for there had been a great feast appointed at the land of Nephi, by the father of
Lamoni, who was king over all the land. ■ Now when king Lamoni heard that Ammon was
10 preparing his horses and his chariots he was more astonished, because of the faithfulness
of Ammon, saying:

*“Surely there has not been any servant among all my servants that has been so
faithful as this man; for even he doth remember all my commandments to execute
11 them. ■ Now I surely know that this is the Great Spirit, and I would desire him that he
come in unto me, but I durst not.”*

12 And it came to pass that when Ammon had made ready the horses and the chariots for the
king and his servants, he went in unto the king, and he saw that the countenance of the king
13 was changed; therefore he was about to return out of his presence. ■ And one of the king's
servants said unto him,

“Rabbanah,”

which is, being interpreted, powerful or great king, considering their kings to be powerful;

and thus he said unto him:

“Rabbanah, the king desireth thee to stay.”

14 Therefore Ammon turned himself unto the king, and said unto him:

“What wilt thou that I should do for thee, O king?”

15 And the king answered him not for the space of an hour, according to their time, for he knew not what he should say unto him. ■ And it came to pass that Ammon said unto him again:

“What desirest thou of me?”

16 But the king answered him not. ■ And it came to pass that Ammon, being filled with the Spirit of God, therefore he perceived the thoughts of the king. And he said unto him:

“Is it because thou hast heard that I defended thy servants and thy flocks, and slew seven of their brethren with the sling and with the sword, and smote off the arms of others, in order to defend thy flocks and thy servants; behold, is it this that causeth thy marvelings? ■ I say unto you, what is it, that thy marvelings are so great?

17 *Behold, I am a man, and am thy servant; therefore, whatsoever thou desirest which is right, that will I do.”*

18 Now when the king had heard these words, he marveled again, for he beheld that Ammon could discern his thoughts; but notwithstanding this, king Lamoni did open his mouth, and said unto him:

“Who art thou? Art thou that Great Spirit, who knows all things?”

19 Ammon answered and said unto him:

“I am not.”

20 And the king said:

“How knowest thou the thoughts of my heart? Thou mayest speak boldly, and tell me concerning these things; and also tell me by what power ye slew and smote off the arms of my brethren that scattered my flocks-- ■ And now, if thou wilt tell me concerning these things, whatsoever thou desirest I will give unto thee; and if it were needed, I would guard thee with my armies; but I know that thou art more powerful than all they; nevertheless, whatsoever thou desirest of me I will grant it unto thee.”

22 Now Ammon being wise, yet harmless, he said unto Lamoni:

“Wilt thou hearken unto my words, if I tell thee by what power I do these things? And this is the thing that I desire of thee.”

23 And the king answered him, and said:

“Yea, I will believe all thy words.”

24 And thus he was caught with guile. ■ And Ammon began to speak unto him with boldness, and said unto him:

“Believest thou that there is a God?”

25 And he answered, and said unto him:

“I do not know what that meaneth.”

26 And then Ammon said:

“Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit?”

27 And he said,

“Yea.”

28 And Ammon said:

“This is God.”

And Ammon said unto him again:

“Believest thou that this Great Spirit, who is God, created all things which are in heaven and in the earth?”

29 And he said:

“Yea, I believe that he created all things which are in the earth; but I do not know the heavens.”

30 And Ammon said unto him:

“The heavens is a place where God dwells and all his holy angels.”

31 And king Lamoni said:

“Is it above the earth?”

32 And Ammon said:

“Yea, and he looketh down upon all the children of men; and he knows all the thoughts and intents of the heart; for by his hand were they all created from the beginning.”

33 And king Lamoni said:

“I believe all these things which thou hast spoken. Art thou sent from God?”

34 Ammon said unto him:

“I am a man; and man in the beginning was created after the image of God, and I am called by his Holy Spirit to teach these things unto this people, that they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just and true; ■ And a portion of that Spirit dwelleth in me, which giveth me knowledge, and also power according to my faith and desires which are in God.”

36 Now when Ammon had said these words, he began at the creation of the world, and also the creation of Adam, and told him all the things concerning the fall of man, and rehearsed and laid before him the records and the holy scriptures of the people, which had been spoken by the prophets, even down to the time that their father, Lehi, left Jerusalem.

37 And he also rehearsed unto them (for it was unto the king and to his servants) all the journeyings of their fathers in the wilderness, and all their sufferings with hunger and
38 thirst, and their travail, and so forth. ■ And he also rehearsed unto them concerning the rebellions of Laman and Lemuel, and the sons of Ishmael, yea, all their rebellions did he relate unto them; and he expounded unto them all the records and scriptures from the time
39 that Lehi left Jerusalem down to the present time. ■ But this is not all; for he expounded unto them the plan of redemption, which was prepared from the foundation of the world; and he also made known unto them concerning the coming of Christ, and all the works of the Lord did he make known unto them.

40 And it came to pass that after he had said all these things, and expounded them to the king,
41 that the king believed all his words. ■ And he began to cry unto the Lord, saying:

“O Lord, have mercy; according to thy abundant mercy which thou hast had upon the people of Nephi, have upon me, and my people.”

42, 43 And now, when he had said this, he fell unto the earth, as if he were dead. ■ And it came to pass that his servants took him and carried him in unto his wife, and laid him upon a bed; and he lay as if he were dead for the space of two days and two nights; and his wife, and his sons, and his daughters mourned over him, after the manner of the Lamanites, greatly lamenting his loss.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

Lamoni receives the light of everlasting life and sees the Redeemer

His household fall into a trance, and some see angels

Ammon is preserved miraculously

He baptizes many and establishes a church among them.

1 And it came to pass that after two days and two nights they were about to take his body and lay it in a sepulchre, which they had made for the purpose of burying their dead.

2 Now the queen having heard of the fame of Ammon, therefore she sent and desired that he
3 should come in unto her. ■ And it came to pass that Ammon did as he was commanded,
4 and went in unto the queen, and desired to know what she would that he should do. ■ And she said unto him:

“The servants of my husband have made it known unto me that thou art a prophet of

5 *a holy God, and that thou hast power to do many mighty works in his name; Therefore, if this is the case, I would that ye should go in and see my husband, for he has been laid upon his bed for the space of two days and two nights; and some say that he is not dead, but others say that he is dead and that he stinketh, and that he ought to be placed in the sepulchre; but as for myself, to me he doth not stink.”*

6 Now, this was what Ammon desired, for he knew that king Lamoni was under the power of God; he knew that the dark veil of unbelief was being cast away from his mind, and the light which did light up his mind, which was the light of the glory of God, which was a marvelous light of his goodness--yea, this light had infused such joy into his soul, the cloud of darkness having been dispelled, and that the light of everlasting life was lit up in his soul, yea, he knew that this had overcome his natural frame, and he was carried away in
7 God-- ■ Therefore, what the queen desired of him was his only desire. Therefore, he went in to see the king according as the queen had desired him; and he saw the king, and he
8 knew that he was not dead. ■ And he said unto the queen:

“He is not dead, but he sleepeth in God, and on the morrow he shall rise again; therefore bury him not.”

9 And Ammon said unto her:

“Believest thou this?”

And she said unto him:

“I have had no witness save thy word, and the word of our servants; nevertheless I believe that it shall be according as thou hast said.”

10 And Ammon said unto her:

“Blessed art thou because of thy exceeding faith; I say unto thee, woman, there has not been such great faith among all the people of the Nephites.”

11 And it came to pass that she watched over the bed of her husband, from that time even
12 until that time on the morrow which Ammon had appointed that he should rise. ■ And it came to pass that he arose, according to the words of Ammon; and as he arose, he stretched forth his hand unto the woman, and said:

13 *“Blessed be the name of God, and blessed art thou. ■ For as sure as thou livest, behold, I have seen my Redeemer; and he shall come forth, and be born of a woman, and he shall redeem all mankind who believe on his name.”*

14 Now, when he had said these words, his heart was swollen within him, and he sunk again with joy; and the queen also sunk down, being overpowered by the Spirit. Now Ammon seeing the Spirit of the Lord poured out according to his prayers upon the Lamanites, his brethren, who had been the cause of so much mourning among the Nephites, or among all the people of God because of their iniquities and their traditions, he fell upon his knees, and began to pour out his soul in prayer and thanksgiving to God for what he had done for his brethren; and he was also overpowered with joy; and thus they all three had sunk to the
15 earth. ■ Now, when the servants of the king had seen that they had fallen, they also began to cry unto God, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them also, for it was they who had stood before the king and testified unto him concerning the great power of Ammon.

16 And it came to pass that they did call on the name of the Lord, in their might, even until they had all fallen to the earth, save it were one of the Lamanitish women, whose name was Abish, she having been converted unto the Lord for many years, on account of a
17 remarkable vision of her father-- ■ Thus, having been converted to the Lord, and never having made it known, therefore, when she saw that all the servants of Lamoni had fallen to the earth, and also her mistress, the queen, and the king, and Ammon lay prostrate upon the earth, she knew that it was the power of God; and supposing that this opportunity, by making known unto the people what had happened among them, that by beholding this scene it would cause them to believe in the power of God, therefore she ran forth from

18 house to house, making it known unto the people. ■ And they began to assemble themselves together unto the house of the king. And there came a multitude, and to their astonishment they beheld the king, and the queen, and their servants prostrate upon the earth, and they all lay there as though they were dead; and they also saw Ammon, and behold, he was a Nephite.

19 And now the people began to murmur among themselves; some saying that it was a great evil that had come upon them, or upon the king and his house, because he had suffered that the Nephite should remain in the land. ■ But others rebuked them, saying:

20 *“The king hath brought this evil upon his house, because he slew his servants who had had their flocks scattered at the waters of Sebus.”*

21 And they were also rebuked by those men who had stood at the waters of Sebus and scattered the flocks which belonged to the king, for they were angry with Ammon because of the number which he had slain of their brethren at the waters of Sebus, while defending the flocks of the king. ■ Now, one of them, whose brother had been slain with the sword of Ammon, being exceedingly angry with Ammon, drew his sword and went forth that he might let it fall upon Ammon, to slay him; and as he lifted the sword to smite him, behold, he fell dead. ■ Now we see that Ammon could not be slain, for the Lord had said unto Mosiah, his father:

“I will spare him, and it shall be unto him according to thy faith”

--therefore, Mosiah trusted him unto the Lord.

24 And it came to pass that when the multitude beheld that the man had fallen dead, who lifted the sword to slay Ammon, fear came upon them all, and they durst not put forth their hands to touch him or any of those who had fallen; and they began to marvel again among themselves what could be the cause of this great power, or what all these things could mean.

25 And it came to pass that there were many among them who said that Ammon was the Great Spirit, and others said he was sent by the Great Spirit; ■ But others rebuked them all, saying that he was a monster, who had been sent from the Nephites to torment them. 26 And there were some who said that Ammon was sent by the Great Spirit to afflict them because of their iniquities; and that it was the Great Spirit that had always attended the Nephites, who had ever delivered them out of their hands; and they said that it was this 27 Great Spirit who had destroyed so many of their brethren, the Lamanites. ■ And thus the contention began to be exceedingly sharp among them. And while they were thus contending, the woman servant who had caused the multitude to be gathered together came, and when she saw the contention which was among the multitude she was 28 exceedingly sorrowful, even unto tears.

29 And it came to pass that she went and took the queen by the hand, that perhaps she might raise her from the ground; and as soon as she touched her hand she arose and stood upon her feet, and cried with a loud voice, saying:

“O blessed Jesus, who has saved me from an awful hell!

O blessed God, have mercy on this people!”

30 And when she had said this, she clasped her hands, being filled with joy, speaking many words which were not understood; and when she had done this, she took the king, Lamoni, 31 by the hand, and behold he arose and stood upon his feet. ■ And he, immediately, seeing the contention among his people, went forth and began to rebuke them, and to teach them the words which he had heard from the mouth of Ammon; and as many as heard his words 32 believed, and were converted unto the Lord. ■ But there were many among them who would not hear his words; therefore they went their way.

33 And it came to pass that when Ammon arose he also administered unto them, and also did
34 all the servants of Lamoni; and they did all declare unto the people the selfsame thing--that
35 their hearts had been changed; that they had no more desire to do evil. ■ And behold, many
36 did declare unto the people that they had seen angels and had conversed with them; and
thus they had told them things of God, and of his righteousness. ■ And it came to pass that
there were many that did believe in their words; and as many as did believe were baptized;
and they became a righteous people, and they did establish a church among them. ■ And
thus the work of the Lord did commence among the Lamanites; thus the Lord did begin to
pour out his Spirit upon them; and we see that his arm is extended to all people who will
repent and believe on his name.

CHAPTER TWENTY

*The Lord sends Ammon to Middoni to deliver his imprisoned brethren
Ammon and Lamoni meet Lamoni's father, who is king over all the land
Ammon compels the old king to approve the release of his brethren.*

1 And it came to pass that when they had established a church in that land, that king Lamoni
2 desired that Ammon should go with him to the land of Nephi, that he might show him unto
his father. ■ And the voice of the Lord came to Ammon saying:

***“Thou shalt not go up to the land of Nephi, for behold, the king will seek thy life;
but thou shalt go to the land of Middoni; for behold, thy brother Aaron, and also
Muloki and Ammah are in prison.”***

3 Now it came to pass that when Ammon had heard this, he said unto Lamoni: Behold, my
4 brother and brethren are in prison at Middoni, and I go that I may deliver them. ■ Now
Lamoni said unto Ammon: I know, in the strength of the Lord thou canst do all things.
But behold, I will go with thee to the land of Middoni; for the king of the land of Middoni,
whose name is Antiomno, is a friend unto me; therefore I go to the land of Middoni, that I
may flatter the king of the land, and he will cast thy brethren out of prison. Now Lamoni
said unto him:

“Who told thee that thy brethren were in prison?”

5 And Ammon said unto him:

“No one hath told me, save it be God; and he said unto me--

“Go and deliver thy brethren, for they are in prison in the land of Middoni.”

6 Now when Lamoni had heard this he caused that his servants should make ready his horses
7 and his chariots. And he said unto Ammon:

*“Come, I will go with thee down to the land of Middoni, and there I will plead with
the king that he will cast thy brethren out of prison.”*

8 And it came to pass that as Ammon and Lamoni were journeying thither, they met the
9 father of Lamoni, who was king over all the land. ■ And behold, the father of Lamoni said
unto him:

*“Why did ye not come to the feast on that great day when I made a feast unto my
sons, and unto my people?”*

10 And he also said:

“Whither art thou going with this Nephite, who is one of the children of a liar?”

11 And it came to pass that Lamoni rehearsed unto him whither he was going, for he feared to
12 offend him. ■ And he also told him all the cause of his tarrying in his own kingdom, that he
13 did not go unto his father to the feast which he had prepared. ■ And now when Lamoni had
rehearsed unto him all these things, behold, to his astonishment, his father was angry with
him, and said:

*“Lamoni, thou art going to deliver these Nephites, who are sons of a liar. Behold, he
robbed our fathers; and now his children are also come amongst us that they may, by*

their cunning and their lyings, deceive us, that they again may rob us of our property.”

14 Now the father of Lamoni commanded him that he should slay Ammon with the sword.
And he also commanded him that he should not go to the land of Middoni, but that he
15 should return with him to the land of Ishmael. ■ But Lamoni said unto him:

“I will not slay Ammon, neither will I return to the land of Ishmael, but I go to the land of Middoni that I may release the brethren of Ammon, for I know that they are just men and holy prophets of the true God.”

16 Now when his father had heard these words, he was angry with him, and he drew his
17 sword that he might smite him to the earth. ■ But Ammon stood forth and said unto him:

“Behold, thou shalt not slay thy son; nevertheless, it were better that he should fall than thee, for behold, he has repented of his sins; but if thou shouldst fall at this time, in thine anger, thy soul could not be saved. ■ And again, it is expedient that thou shouldst forbear; for if thou shouldst slay thy son, he being an innocent man, his blood would cry from the ground to the Lord his God, for vengeance to come upon thee; and perhaps thou wouldst lose thy soul.”

19 Now when Ammon had said these words unto him, he answered him, saying:

“I know that if I should slay my son, that I should shed innocent blood; for it is thou that hast sought to destroy him.”

20 And he stretched forth his hand to slay Ammon. But Ammon withstood his blows, and
21 also smote his arm that he could not use it. Now when the king saw that Ammon could
22 slay him, he began to plead with Ammon that he would spare his life. ■ But Ammon raised his sword, and said unto him:

“Behold, I will smite thee except thou wilt grant unto me that my brethren may be cast out of prison.”

23 Now the king, fearing he should lose his life, said: If thou wilt spare me I will grant unto thee whatsoever thou wilt ask, even to half of the kingdom.

24 Now when Ammon saw that he had wrought upon the old king according to his desire, he said unto him:

“If thou wilt grant that my brethren may be cast out of prison, and also that Lamoni may retain his kingdom, and that ye be not displeased with him, but grant that he may do according to his own desires in whatsoever thing he thinketh, then will I spare thee; otherwise I will smite thee to the earth.”

25 Now when Ammon had said these words, the king began to rejoice because of his life.

26 And when he saw that Ammon had no desire to destroy him, and when he also saw the great love he had for his son Lamoni, he was astonished exceedingly, and said:

“Because this is all that thou hast desired, that I would release thy brethren, and suffer that my son Lamoni should retain his kingdom, behold, I will grant unto you that my son may retain his kingdom from this time and forever; and I will govern him no more--■ And I will also grant unto thee that thy brethren may be cast out of prison, and thou and thy brethren may come unto me, in my kingdom; for I shall greatly desire to see thee.”

27 For the king was greatly astonished at the words which he had spoken, and also at the words which had been spoken by his son Lamoni, therefore he was desirous to learn them.

28 And it came to pass that Ammon and Lamoni proceeded on their journey towards the land of Middoni. And Lamoni found favor in the eyes of the king of the land; therefore the
29 brethren of Ammon were brought forth out of prison. ■ And when Ammon did meet them he was exceedingly sorrowful, for behold they were naked, and their skins were worn exceedingly because of being bound with strong cords. And they also had suffered hunger, thirst, and all kinds of afflictions; nevertheless they were patient in all their sufferings.

30 And, as it happened, it was their lot to have fallen into the hands of a more hardened and a more stiffnecked people; therefore they would not hearken unto their words, and they had cast them out, and had smitten them, and had driven them from house to house, and from place to place, even until they had arrived in the land of Middoni; and there they were taken and cast into prison, and bound with strong cords, and kept in prison for many days, and were delivered by Lamoni and Ammon.

Chapters 21-26

*An account of the preaching of Aaron, and Muloki, and their brethren, to the Lamanites.
Comprising chapters 21 to 26 inclusive.*

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

Aaron teaches the Amalekites about Christ and his atonement

Aaron and his brethren are imprisoned in Middoni

After their deliverance they teach in the synagogues and make many converts

Lamoni grants religious freedom to the people in the land of Ishmael.

1 Now when Ammon and his brethren separated themselves in the borders of the land of the Lamanites, behold Aaron took his journey towards the land which was called by the Lamanites, Jerusalem, calling it after the land of their fathers' nativity; and it was away
2 joining the borders of Mormon. ■ Now the Lamanites and the Amalekites and the people of
3 Amulon had built a great city, which was called Jerusalem. ■ Now the Lamanites of themselves were sufficiently hardened, but the Amalekites and the Amulonites were still harder; therefore they did cause the Lamanites that they should harden their hearts, that they should wax strong in wickedness and their abominations.

4 And it came to pass that Aaron came to the city of Jerusalem, and first began to preach to the Amalekites. And he began to preach to them in their synagogues, for they had built synagogues after the order of the Nehors; for many of the Amalekites and the Amulonites
5 were after the order of the Nehors ■ Therefore, as Aaron entered into one of their synagogues to preach unto the people, and as he was speaking unto them, behold there arose an Amalekite and began to contend with him, saying:

6 *“What is that thou hast testified? Hast thou seen an angel? Why do not angels appear unto us? Behold are not this people as good as thy people? ■ Thou also sayest, except we repent we shall perish. How knowest thou the thought and intent of our hearts? How knowest thou that we have cause to repent? How knowest thou that we are not a righteous people? Behold, we have built sanctuaries, and we do assemble ourselves together to worship God. We do believe that God will save all men.”*

7 Now Aaron said unto him:

“Believest thou that the Son of God shall come to redeem mankind from their sins?”

8 And the man said unto him:

“We do not believe that thou knowest any such thing. We do not believe in these foolish traditions. We do not believe that thou knowest of things to come, neither do we believe that thy fathers and also that our fathers did know concerning the things which they spake, of that which is to come.”

9 Now Aaron began to open the scriptures unto them concerning the coming of Christ, and also concerning the resurrection of the dead, and that there could be no redemption for mankind save it were through the death and sufferings of Christ, and the atonement of his
10 blood. ■ And it came to pass as he began to expound these things unto them they were

11 angry with him, and began to mock him; and they would not hear the words which he
spake. ■ Therefore, when he saw that they would not hear his words, he departed out of
their synagogue, and came over to a village which was called Ani-Anti, and there he found
12 Muloki preaching the word unto them; and also Ammah and his brethren. And they
contended with many about the word. ■ And it came to pass that they saw that the people
would harden their hearts, therefore they departed and came over into the land of Middoni.
13 And they did preach the word unto many, and few believed on the words which they
taught. ■ Nevertheless, Aaron and a certain number of his brethren were taken and cast
into prison, and the remainder of them fled out of the land of Middoni unto the regions
14 round about. ■ And those who were cast into prison suffered many things, and they were
delivered by the hand of Lamoni and Ammon, and they were fed and clothed. ■ And they
15 went forth again to declare the word, and thus they were delivered for the first time out of
prison; and thus they had suffered. ■ And they went forth whithersoever they were led by
16 the Spirit of the Lord, preaching the word of God in every synagogue of the Amalekites, or
in every assembly of the Lamanites where they could be admitted.

17 And it came to pass that the Lord began to bless them, insomuch that they brought many to **Page 263**
the knowledge of the truth; yea, they did convince many of their sins, and of the traditions
of their fathers, which were not correct.

18 And it came to pass that Ammon and Lamoni returned from the land of Middoni to the
land of Ishmael, which was the land of their inheritance. ■ And king Lamoni would not
19 suffer that Ammon should serve him, or be his servant. ■ But he caused that there should
be synagogues built in the land of Ishmael; and he caused that his people, or the people
20 who were under his reign, should assemble themselves together. ■ And he did rejoice over
them, and he did teach them many things. And he did also declare unto them that they
were a people who were under him, and that they were a free people, that they were free
from the oppressions of the king, his father; for that his father had granted unto him that he
might reign over the people who were in the land of Ishmael, and in all the land round
21 about. ■ And he also declared unto them that they might have the liberty of worshiping the
Lord their God according to their desires, in whatsoever place they were in, if it were in the
22 land which was under the reign of king Lamoni. ■ And Ammon did preach unto the people
of king Lamoni; and it came to pass that he did teach them all things concerning things
23 pertaining to righteousness. And he did exhort them daily, with all diligence; and they
gave heed unto his word, and they were zealous for keeping the commandments of God.

CHAPTER TWENTY-TWO

*Aaron teaches Lamoni's father about the creation, the fall of Adam,
and the plan of redemption through Christ
The king and all his household are converted
How the land was divided between the Nephites and the Lamanites.*

1 Now, as Ammon was thus teaching the people of Lamoni continually, we will return to the
account of Aaron and his brethren; for after he departed from the land of Middoni he was
led by the Spirit to the land of Nephi, even to the house of the king which was over all the
land save it were the land of Ishmael; and he was the father of Lamoni.

2 And it came to pass that he went in unto him into the king's palace, with his brethren, and
bowed himself before the king, and said unto him:

3 *“Behold, O king, we are the brethren of Ammon, whom thou hast delivered out of
prison. ■ And now, O king, if thou wilt spare our lives, we will be thy servants. And
the king said unto them: Arise, for I will grant unto you your lives, and I will not*

suffer that ye shall be my servants; but I will insist that ye shall administer unto me; for I have been somewhat troubled in mind because of the generosity and the greatness of the words of thy brother Ammon; and I desire to know the cause why he has not come up out of Middoni with thee.”

4 And Aaron said unto the king:

“Behold, the Spirit of the Lord has called him another way; he has gone to the land of Ishmael, to teach the people of Lamoni.”

5 Now the king said unto them:

6 *“What is this that ye have said concerning the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, this is the thing which doth trouble me. ■ And also, what is this that Ammon said--If ye will repent ye shall be saved, and if ye will not repent, ye shall be cast off at the last day?”*

7 And Aaron answered him and said unto him:

“Believest thou that there is a God?”

And the king said:

“ I know that the Amalekites say that there is a God, and I have granted unto them that they should build sanctuaries, that they may assemble themselves together to worship him. And if now thou sayest there is a God, behold I will believe.”

8 And now when Aaron heard this, his heart began to rejoice, and he said:

“Behold, assuredly as thou livest, O king, there is a God.”

9 And the king said:

“Is God that Great Spirit that brought our fathers out of the land of Jerusalem?”

10 And Aaron said unto him:

“Yea, he is that Great Spirit, and he created all things both in heaven and in earth. Believest thou this?”

11 And he said:

“Yea, I believe that the Great Spirit created all things, and I desire that ye should tell me concerning all these things, and I will believe thy words.”

12 And it came to pass that when Aaron saw that the king would believe his words, he began from the creation of Adam, reading the scriptures unto the king--how God created man after his own image, and that God gave him commandments, and that because of transgression, man had fallen. ■ And Aaron did expound unto him the scriptures from the creation of Adam, laying the fall of man before him, and their carnal state and also the plan of redemption, which was prepared from the foundation of the world, through Christ, for all whosoever would believe on his name. ■ And since man had fallen he could not merit anything of himself; but the sufferings and death of Christ atone for their sins, through faith and repentance, and so forth; and that he breaketh the bands of death, that the grave shall have no victory, and that the sting of death should be swallowed up in the hopes of glory; and Aaron did expound all these things unto the king. ■ And it came to pass that after Aaron had expounded these things unto him, the king said:

13 *“What shall I do that I may have this eternal life of which thou hast spoken? Yea, what shall I do that I may be born of God, having this wicked spirit rooted out of my breast, and receive his Spirit, that I may be filled with joy, that I may not be cast off at the last day? Behold, said he, I will give up all that I possess, yea, I will forsake my kingdom, that I may receive this great joy.”*

16 But Aaron said unto him:

“If thou desirest this thing, if thou wilt bow down before God, yea, if thou wilt repent of all thy sins, and will bow down before God, and call on his name in faith, believing that ye shall receive, then shalt thou receive the hope which thou desirest.”

17 And it came to pass that when Aaron had said these words, the king did bow down before the Lord, upon his knees; yea, even he did prostrate himself upon the earth, and cried mightily, saying:

18 *“O God, Aaron hath told me that there is a God; and if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day.”*

And now when the king had said these words, he was struck as if he were dead.

19 And it came to pass that his servants ran and told the queen all that had happened unto the king. And she came in unto the king; and when she saw him lay as if he were dead, and also Aaron and his brethren standing as though they had been the cause of his fall, she was angry with them, and commanded that her servants, or the servants of the king, should take them and slay them. ■ Now the servants had seen the cause of the king's fall, therefore they durst not lay their hands on Aaron and his brethren; and they pled with the queen saying:

“Why commandest thou that we should slay these men, when behold one of them is mightier than us all? Therefore we shall fall before them.”

21 Now when the queen saw the fear of the servants she also began to fear exceedingly, lest there should some evil come upon her. And she commanded her servants that they should go and call the people, that they might slay Aaron and his brethren. ■ Now when Aaron saw the determination of the queen, he, also knowing the hardness of the hearts of the people, feared lest that a multitude should assemble themselves together, and there should be a great contention and a disturbance among them; therefore he put forth his hand and raised the king from the earth, and said unto him:

“Stand.”

23 And he stood upon his feet, receiving his strength. ■ Now this was done in the presence of the queen and many of the servants. And when they saw it they greatly marveled, and began to fear. And the king stood forth, and began to minister unto them. And he did minister unto them, insomuch that his whole household were converted unto the Lord.

24 Now there was a multitude gathered together because of the commandment of the queen, and there began to be great murmurings among them because of Aaron and his brethren.

25 But the king stood forth among them and administered unto them. And they were pacified towards Aaron and those who were with him.

26 And it came to pass that when the king saw that the people were pacified, he caused that Aaron and his brethren should stand forth in the midst of the multitude, and that they should preach the word unto them. ■ And it came to pass that the king sent a proclamation throughout all the land, amongst all his people who were in all his land, who were in all the regions round about, which was bordering even to the sea, on the east and on the west, and which was divided from the land of Zarahemla by a narrow strip of wilderness, which ran from the sea east even to the sea west, and round about on the borders of the seashore, and the borders of the wilderness which was on the north by the land of Zarahemla, through the borders of Manti, by the head of the river Sidon, running from the east towards the west--and thus were the Lamanites and the Nephites divided.

28 Now, the more idle part of the Lamanites lived in the wilderness, and dwelt in tents; and they were spread through the wilderness on the west, in the land of Nephi; yea, and also on the west of the land of Zarahemla, in the borders by the seashore, and on the west in the land of Nephi, in the place of their fathers' first inheritance, and thus bordering along by the seashore. ■ And also there were many Lamanites on the east by the seashore, whither the Nephites had driven them. And thus the Nephites were nearly surrounded by the Lamanites; nevertheless the Nephites had taken possession of all the northern parts of the

land bordering on the wilderness, at the head of the river Sidon, from the east to the west,
30 round about on the wilderness side; on the north, even until they came to the land which
they called Bountiful. ■ And it bordered upon the land which they called Desolation, it
being so far northward that it came into the land which had been peopled and been
31 destroyed, of whose bones we have spoken, which was discovered by the people of
Zarahemla, it being the place of their first landing. ■ And they came from there up into the
south wilderness. Thus the land on the northward was called Desolation, and the land on
the southward was called Bountiful, it being the wilderness which is filled with all manner
32 of wild animals of every kind, a part of which had come from the land northward for food.
And now, it was only the distance of a day and a half's journey for a Nephite, on the line
Bountiful and the land Desolation, from the east to the west sea; and thus the land of Nephi
and the land of Zarahemla were nearly surrounded by water, there being a small neck of
land between the land northward and the land southward.

33 And it came to pass that the Nephites had inhabited the land Bountiful, even from the east
unto the west sea, and thus the Nephites in their wisdom, with their guards and their
armies, had hemmed in the Lamanites on the south, that thereby they should have no more
34 possession on the north, that they might not overrun the land northward. ■ Therefore the
Lamanites could have no more possessions only in the land of Nephi, and the wilderness
round about. Now this was wisdom in the Nephites--as the Lamanites were an enemy to
them, they would not suffer their afflictions on every hand, and also that they might have a
country whither they might flee, according to their desires.

35 And now I, after having said this, return again to the account of Ammon and Aaron,
Omner and Himni, and their brethren.

CHAPTER TWENTY-THREE

Religious freedom is proclaimed

The Lamanites in seven lands and cities are converted

They call themselves Anti-Nephi-Lehies and are freed from the curse

The Amalekites and the Amulonites reject the truth.

1 Behold, now it came to pass that the king of the Lamanites sent a proclamation among all
his people, that they should not lay their hands on Ammon, or Aaron, or Omner, or Himni,
nor either of their brethren who should go forth preaching the word of God, in whatsoever
2 place they should be, in any part of their land. ■ Yea, he sent a decree among them, that
they should not lay their hands on them to bind them, or to cast them into prison; neither
should they spit upon them, nor smite them, nor cast them out of their synagogues, nor
scourge them; neither should they cast stones at them, but that they should have free access
3 to their houses, and also their temples, and their sanctuaries. ■ And thus they might go
forth and preach the word according to their desires, for the king had been converted unto
the Lord, and all his household; therefore he sent his proclamation throughout the land
unto his people, that the word of God might have no obstruction, but that it might go forth
throughout all the land, that his people might be convinced concerning the wicked
traditions of their fathers, and that they might be convinced that they were all brethren, and
that they ought not to murder, nor to plunder, nor to steal, nor to commit adultery, nor to
commit any manner of wickedness.

4 And now it came to pass that when the king had sent forth this proclamation, that Aaron
and his brethren went forth from city to city, and from one house of worship to another,
establishing churches, and consecrating priests and teachers throughout the land among the
Lamanites, to preach and to teach the word of God among them; and thus they began to

5 have great success. ■ And thousands were brought to the knowledge of the Lord, yea,
thousands were brought to believe in the traditions of the Nephites; and they were taught
6 the records and prophecies which were handed down even to the present time. ■ And as
sure as the Lord liveth, so sure as many as believed, or as many as were brought to the
knowledge of the truth, through the preaching of Ammon and his brethren, according to the
spirit of revelation and of prophecy, and the power of God working miracles in them--yea,
I say unto you, as the Lord liveth, as many of the Lamanites as believed in their preaching,
7 and were converted unto the Lord, never did fall away. ■ For they became a righteous
people; they did lay down the weapons of their rebellion, that they did not fight against
God any more, neither against any of their brethren.

8 Now, these are they who were converted unto the Lord:

9 The people of the Lamanites who were in the land of Ishmael;
10 And also of the people of the Lamanites who were in the land of Middoni;
11 And also of the people of the Lamanites who were in the city of Nephi;
12 And also of the people of the Lamanites who were in the land of Shilom,
and who were in the land of Shemlon,
and in the city of Lemuel,
and in the city of Shimnilom.

13 And these are the names of the cities of the Lamanites which were converted unto the
Lord; and these are they that laid down the weapons of their rebellion, yea, all their
14 weapons of war; and they were all Lamanites. ■ And the Amalekites were not converted,
save only one; neither were any of the Amulonites; but they did harden their hearts, and
also the hearts of the Lamanites in that part of the land wheresoever they dwelt, yea, and
15 all their villages and all their cities. ■ Therefore, we have named all the cities of the
Lamanites in which they did repent and come to the knowledge of the truth, and were
converted.

16 And now it came to pass that the king and those who were converted were desirous that
they might have a name, that thereby they might be distinguished from their brethren;
therefore the king consulted with Aaron and many of their priests, concerning the name
17 that they should take upon them, that they might be distinguished. ■ And it came to pass
18 that they called their names Anti-Nephi-Lehies; and they were called by this name and
were no more called Lamanites. And they began to be a very industrious people; yea, and
they were friendly with the Nephites; therefore, they did open a correspondence with them,
and the curse of God did no more follow them.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FOUR

*The Lamanites come against the people of God
The Anti-Nephi-Lehies rejoice in Christ and are visited by angels
They choose to suffer death rather than to defend themselves
More Lamanites are converted.*

1 And it came to pass that the Amalekites and the Amulonites and the Lamanites who were
in the land of Amulon, and also in the land of Helam, and who were in the land of
Jerusalem, and in fine, in all the land round about, who had not been converted and had not
taken upon them the name of Anti-Nephi-Lehi, were stirred up by the Amalekites and by
2 the Amulonites to anger against their brethren. ■ And their hatred became exceedingly sore
against them, even insomuch that they began to rebel against their king, insomuch that they
would not that he should be their king; therefore, they took up arms against the people of
Anti-Nephi-Lehi.

3 Now the king conferred the kingdom upon his son, and he called his name
4 Anti-Nephi-Lehi. ■ And the king died in that selfsame year that the Lamanites began to
5 make preparations for war against the people of God. ■ Now when Ammon and his
brethren and all those who had come up with him saw the preparations of the Lamanites to
destroy their brethren, they came forth to the land of Midian, and there Ammon met all his
brethren; and from thence they came to the land of Ishmael that they might hold a council
with Lamoni and also with his brother Anti-Nephi-Lehi, what they should do to defend
6 themselves against the Lamanites. ■ Now there was not one soul among all the people who
had been converted unto the Lord that would take up arms against their brethren; nay, they
would not even make any preparations for war; yea, and also their king commanded them
7 that they should not. ■ Now, these are the words which he said unto the people concerning
the matter:

*“I thank my God, my beloved people, that our great God has in goodness sent
these our brethren, the Nephites, unto us to preach unto us, and to convince us of the
8 traditions of our wicked fathers. ■ And behold, I thank my great God that he has
given us a portion of his Spirit to soften our hearts, that we have opened a
9 correspondence with these brethren, the Nephites. ■ And behold, I also thank my
God, that by opening this correspondence we have been convinced of our sins, and of
10 the many murders which we have committed. ■ And I also thank my God, yea, my
great God, that he hath granted unto us that we might repent of these things, and also
that he hath forgiven us of those our many sins and murders which we have
committed, and taken away the guilt from our hearts, through the merits of his Son.*

*And now behold, my brethren, since it has been all that we could do, (as we were
the most lost of all mankind) to repent of all our sins and the many murders which we
have committed, and to get God to take them away from our hearts, for it was all we
12 could do to repent sufficiently before God that he would take away our stain-- ■ Now,
my best beloved brethren, since God hath taken away our stains, and our swords
have become bright, then let us stain our swords no more with the blood of our
13 brethren. ■ Behold, I say unto you, Nay, let us retain our swords that they be not
stained with the blood of our brethren; for perhaps, if we should stain our swords
again they can no more be washed bright through the blood of the Son of our great
14 God, which shall be shed for the atonement of our sins. ■ And the great God has had
mercy on us, and made these things known unto us that we might not perish; yea, and
he has made these things known unto us beforehand, because he loveth our souls as
well as he loveth our children; therefore, in his mercy he doth visit us by his angels,
that the plan of salvation might be made known unto us as well as unto future
15 generations. ■ Oh, how merciful is our God!*

*And now behold, since it has been as much as we could do to get our stains taken
away from us, and our swords are made bright, let us hide them away that they may
be kept bright, as a testimony to our God at the last day, or at the day that we shall
be brought to stand before him to be judged, that we have not stained our swords in
the blood of our brethren since he imparted his word unto us and has made us clean
16 thereby. ■ And now, my brethren, if our brethren seek to destroy us, behold, we will
hide away our swords, yea, even we will bury them deep in the earth, that they may be
kept bright, as a testimony that we have never used them, at the last day; and if our
brethren destroy us, behold, we shall go to our God and shall be saved.”*

17 And now it came to pass that when the king had made an end of these sayings, and all the
people were assembled together, they took their swords, and all the weapons which were
18 used for the shedding of man's blood, and they did bury them up deep in the earth. ■ And
this they did, it being in their view a testimony to God, and also to men, that they never
would use weapons again for the shedding of man's blood; and this they did, vouching and

covenanting with God, that rather than shed the blood of their brethren they would give up their own lives; and rather than take away from a brother they would give unto him; and rather than spend their days in idleness they would labor abundantly with their hands.

19 And thus we see that, when these Lamanites were brought to believe and to know the truth, they were firm, and would suffer even unto death rather than commit sin; and thus we see that they buried their weapons of peace, or they buried the weapons of war, for peace.

20 And it came to pass that their brethren, the Lamanites, made preparations for war, and came up to the land of Nephi for the purpose of destroying the king, and to place another in his stead, and also of destroying the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi out of the land. ■ Now when the people saw that they were coming against them they went out to meet them, and prostrated themselves before them to the earth, and began to call on the name of the Lord; and thus they were in this attitude when the Lamanites began to fall upon them, and began to slay them with the sword. ■ And thus without meeting any resistance, they did slay a thousand and five of them; and we know that they are blessed, for they have gone to dwell with their God. ■ Now when the Lamanites saw that their brethren would not flee from the sword, neither would they turn aside to the right hand or to the left, but that they would lie down and perish, and praised God even in the very act of perishing under the sword--

23 Now when the Lamanites saw this they did forbear from slaying them; and there were many whose hearts had swollen in them for those of their brethren who had fallen under the sword, for they repented of the things which they had done.

25 And it came to pass that they threw down their weapons of war, and they would not take them again, for they were stung for the murders which they had committed; and they came down even as their brethren, relying upon the mercies of those whose arms were lifted to slay them.

26 And it came to pass that the people of God were joined that day by more than the number who had been slain; and those who had been slain were righteous people, therefore we have no reason to doubt but what they were saved. ■ And there was not a wicked man slain among them; but there were more than a thousand brought to the knowledge of the truth; thus we see that the Lord worketh in many ways to the salvation of his people. ■ Now the greatest number of those of the Lamanites who slew so many of their brethren were Amalekites and Amulonites, the greatest number of whom were after the order of the Nehors. ■ Now, among those who joined the people of the Lord, there were none who were Amalekites or Amulonites, or who were of the order of Nehor, but they were actual descendants of Laman and Lemuel. ■ And thus we can plainly discern, that after a people have been once enlightened by the Spirit of God, and have had great knowledge of things pertaining to righteousness, and then have fallen away into sin and transgression, they become more hardened, and thus their state becomes worse than though they had never known these things.

CHAPTER TWENTY-FIVE

Lamanite aggressions spread

*The seed of the priests of Noah perish by fire as Abinadi prophesied
Many Lamanites are converted and join the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi
They believe in Christ and keep the law of Moses.*

1 And behold, now it came to pass that those Lamanites were more angry because they had slain their brethren; therefore they swore vengeance upon the Nephites; and they did no more attempt to slay the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi at that time. ■ But they took their

2

3 armies and went over into the borders of the land of Zarahemla, and fell upon the people
4 who were in the land of Ammonihah, and destroyed them. ■ And after that, they had many
5 battles with the Nephites, in the which they were driven and slain. ■ And among the
Lamanites who were slain were almost all the seed of Amulon and his brethren, who were
the priests of Noah, and they were slain by the hands of the Nephites; And the remainder,
having fled into the east wilderness, and having usurped the power and authority over the
Lamanites, caused that many of the Lamanites should perish by fire because of their
6 belief-- ■ For many of them, after having suffered much loss and so many afflictions,
began to be stirred up in remembrance of the words which Aaron and his brethren had
preached to them in their land; therefore they began to disbelieve the traditions of their
fathers, and to believe in the Lord, and that he gave great power unto the Nephites; and
thus there were many of them converted in the wilderness.

7 And it came to pass that those rulers who were the remnant of the children of Amulon
8 caused that they should be put to death, yea, all those that believed in these things. ■ Now
this martyrdom caused that many of their brethren should be stirred up to anger; and there
began to be contention in the wilderness; and the Lamanites began to hunt the seed of
Amulon and his brethren and began to slay them; and they fled into the east wilderness.
9 And behold they are hunted at this day by the Lamanites. Thus the words of Abinadi were
brought to pass, which he said concerning the seed of the priests who caused that he should
10 suffer death by fire. ■ For he said unto them:

“What ye shall do unto me shall be a type of things to come.”

11 And now Abinadi was the first that suffered death by fire because of his belief in God;
now this is what he meant, that many should suffer death by fire, according as he had
12 suffered. ■ And he said unto the priests of Noah that their seed should cause many to be
put to death, in the like manner as he was, and that they should be scattered abroad and
slain, even as a sheep having no shepherd is driven and slain by wild beasts; and now
behold, these words were verified, for they were driven by the Lamanites, and they were
hunted, and they were smitten.

13 And it came to pass that when the Lamanites saw that they could not overpower the
Nephites they returned again to their own land; and many of them came over to dwell in
14 the land of Ishmael and the land of Nephi, and did join themselves to the people of God,
who were the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi. ■ And they did also bury their weapons of war,
according as their brethren had, and they began to be a righteous people; and they did walk
in the ways of the Lord, and did observe to keep his commandments and his statutes.
15 Yea, and they did keep the law of Moses; for it was expedient that they should keep the
law of Moses as yet, for it was not all fulfilled. But notwithstanding the law of Moses,
they did look forward to the coming of Christ, considering that the law of Moses was a
type of his coming, and believing that they must keep those outward performances until the
16 time that he should be revealed unto them. ■ Now they did not suppose that salvation came
by the law of Moses; but the law of Moses did serve to strengthen their faith in Christ; and
thus they did retain a hope through faith, unto eternal salvation, relying upon the spirit of
17 prophecy, which spake of those things to come. ■ And now behold, Ammon, and Aaron,
and Omner, and Himni, and their brethren did rejoice exceedingly, for the success which
they had had among the Lamanites, seeing that the Lord had granted unto them according
to their prayers, and that he had also verified his word unto them in every particular.

Page 272

CHAPTER TWENTY-SIX

Ammon glories in the Lord

The faithful are strengthened by the Lord and are given knowledge

By faith men may bring thousands of souls unto repentance

God has all power and comprehendeth all things.

1 And now, these are the words of Ammon to his brethren, which say thus:

2 *“My brothers and my brethren, behold I say unto you, how great reason have we*
3 *to rejoice; for could we have supposed when we started from the land of Zarahemla*
4 *that God would have granted unto us such great blessings? ■ And now, I ask, what*
5 *great blessings has he bestowed upon us? Can ye tell? ■ Behold, I answer for you;*
6 *for our brethren, the Lamanites, were in darkness, yea, even in the darkest abyss, but*
7 *behold, how many of them are brought to behold the marvelous light of God! And*
8 *this is the blessing which hath been bestowed upon us, that we have been made*
9 *instruments in the hands of God to bring about this great work. ■ Behold, thousands*
10 *of them do rejoice, and have been brought into the fold of God. ■ Behold, the field*
11 *was ripe, and blessed are ye, for ye did thrust in the sickle, and did reap with your*
12 *might, yea, all the day long did ye labor; and behold the number of your sheaves!*
13 *And they shall be gathered into the garners, that they are not wasted. ■ Yea, they*
14 *shall not be beaten down by the storm at the last day; yea, neither shall they be*
15 *harrowed up by the whirlwinds; but when the storm cometh they shall be gathered*
16 *together in their place, that the storm cannot penetrate to them; yea, neither shall*
17 *they be driven with fierce winds whithersoever the enemy listeth to carry them. ■ But*
18 *behold, they are in the hands of the Lord of the harvest, and they are his; and he will*
19 *raise them up at the last day. ■ Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his*
20 *praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness*
forever. ■ For if we had not come up out of the land of Zarahemla, these our dearly
beloved brethren, who have so dearly beloved us, would still have been racked with
hatred against us, yea, and they would also have been strangers to God.”

Page 273

10 And it came to pass that when Ammon had said these words, his brother Aaron rebuked
11 him, saying: Ammon, I fear that thy joy doth carry thee away unto boasting. ■ But Ammon
12 said unto him:

13 *“I do not boast in my own strength, nor in my own wisdom; but behold, my joy is*
14 *full, yea, my heart is brim with joy, and I will rejoice in my God. ■ Yea, I know that I*
15 *am nothing; as to my strength I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I*
16 *will boast of my God, for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty*
17 *miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name forever.*
18 *Behold, how many thousands of our brethren has he loosed from the pains of hell;*
19 *and they are brought to sing redeeming love, and this because of the power of his*
20 *word which is in us, therefore have we not great reason to rejoice? ■ Yea, we have*
1 *reason to praise him forever, for he is the Most High God, and has loosed our*
2 *brethren from the chains of hell. ■ Yea, they were encircled about with everlasting*
3 *darkness and destruction; but behold, he has brought them into his everlasting light,*
4 *yea, into everlasting salvation; and they are encircled about with the matchless*
5 *bounty of his love; yea, and we have been instruments in his hands of doing this great*
6 *and marvelous work. ■ Therefore, let us glory, yea, we will glory in the Lord; yea, we*
7 *will rejoice, for our joy is full; yea, we will praise our God forever. Behold, who can*
8 *glory too much in the Lord? Yea, who can say too much of his great power, and of*
9 *his mercy, and of his long-suffering towards the children of men? Behold, I say unto*
10 *you, I cannot say the smallest part which I feel. ■ Who could have supposed that our*
11 *God would have been so merciful as to have snatched us from our awful, sinful, and*
12 *polluted state? ■ Behold, we went forth even in wrath, with mighty threatenings to*
13 *destroy his church. ■ Oh then, why did he not consign us to an awful destruction, yea,*
14 *why did he not let the sword of his justice fall upon us, and doom us to eternal*
15 *despair? ■ Oh, my soul, almost as it were, fleeth at the thought. Behold, he did not*

Page 274

exercise his justice upon us, but in his great mercy hath brought us over that everlasting gulf of death and misery, even to the salvation of our souls.

21 *And now behold, my brethren, what natural man is there that knoweth these*
22 *things? I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things, save it be the*
penitent. ■ Yea, he that repenteth and exerciseth faith, and bringeth forth good works,
and prayeth continually without ceasing--unto such it is given to know the mysteries
of God; yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things which never have been
23 *revealed; yea, and it shall be given unto such to bring thousands of souls to*
repentance, even as it has been given unto us to bring these our brethren to
24 *repentance. ■ Now do ye remember, my brethren, that we said unto our brethren in*
the land of Zarahemla, we go up to the land of Nephi, to preach unto our brethren,
the Lamanites, and they laughed us to scorn? ■ For they said unto us:

“Do ye suppose that ye can bring the Lamanites to the knowledge of the truth?
Do ye suppose that ye can convince the Lamanites of the incorrectness of the
traditions of their fathers, as stiffnecked a people as they are;
whose hearts delight in the shedding of blood;
whose days have been spent in the grossest iniquity;
whose ways have been the ways of a transgressor from the beginning? “

,25 *Now my brethren, ye remember that this was their language. ■ And moreover they did*
say:

“Let us take up arms against them,
that we destroy them and their iniquity out of the land,
lest they overrun us and destroy us.”

26 *But behold, my beloved brethren, we came into the wilderness not with the intent to*
destroy our brethren, but with the intent that perhaps we might save some few of their
27 *souls. ■ Now when our hearts were depressed, and we were about to turn back,*
behold, the Lord comforted us, and said:

“Go amongst thy brethren, the Lamanites, and bear with patience thine afflictions, and I will give unto you success.”

28 *And now behold, we have come, and been forth amongst them; and we have been*
patient in our sufferings, and we have suffered every privation; yea, we have traveled
from house to house, relying upon the mercies of the world--not upon the mercies of
29 *the world alone but upon the mercies of God. ■ And we have entered into their houses*
and taught them, and we have taught them in their streets; yea, and we have taught
them upon their hills; and we have also entered into their temples and their
synagogues and taught them; and we have been cast out, and mocked, and spit upon,
and smote upon our cheeks; and we have been stoned, and taken and bound with
30 *strong cords, and cast into prison; and through the power and wisdom of God we*
have been delivered again. ■ And we have suffered all manner of afflictions, and all
this, that perhaps we might be the means of saving some soul; and we supposed that
our joy would be full if perhaps we could be the means of saving some.

31 *Now behold, we can look forth and see the fruits of our labors; and are they few?*
I say unto you, Nay, they are many; yea, and we can witness of their sincerity,
32 *because of their love towards their brethren and also towards us. ■ For behold, they*
had rather sacrifice their lives than even to take the life of their enemy; and they have
buried their weapons of war deep in the earth, because of their love towards their
33 *brethren. ■ And now behold I say unto you, has there been so great love in all the*
34 *land? Behold, I say unto you, Nay, there has not, even among the Nephites. ■ For*
behold, they would take up arms against their brethren; they would not suffer
themselves to be slain. But behold how many of these have laid down their lives; and
we know that they have gone to their God, because of their love and of their hatred to
35 *sin. ■ Now have we not reason to rejoice? Yea, I say unto you, there never were men*

that had so great reason to rejoice as we, since the world began; yea, and my joy is carried away, even unto boasting in my God; for he has all power, all wisdom, and all understanding; he comprehendeth all things, and he is a merciful Being, even unto salvation, to those who will repent and believe on his name.

36 *Now if this is boasting, even so will I boast; for this is my life and my light, my joy and my salvation, and my redemption from everlasting wo. Yea, blessed is the name of my God, who has been mindful of this people, who are a branch of the tree of Israel, and has been lost from its body in a strange land; yea, I say, blessed be the name of my God, who has been mindful of us, wanderers in a strange land.*

37 *Now my brethren, we see that God is mindful of every people, whatsoever land they may be in; yea, he numbereth his people, and his bowels of mercy are over all the earth. Now this is my joy, and my great thanksgiving; yea, and I will give thanks unto my God forever. Amen.”*

CHAPTER TWENTY-SEVEN

*The Lord commands Ammon to lead the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi to safety
Upon meeting Alma, Ammon's joy exhausts his strength
The Nephites give them the land of Jershon
They are called the people of Ammon.*

1 Now it came to pass that when those Lamanites who had gone to war against the Nephites
had found, after their many struggles to destroy them, that it was in vain to seek their
2 destruction, they returned again to the land of Nephi. ■ And it came to pass that the
Amalekites, because of their loss, were exceedingly angry. And when they saw that they
could not seek revenge from the Nephites, they began to stir up the people in anger against
3 their brethren, the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi; therefore they began again to destroy them.
Now this people again refused to take their arms, and they suffered themselves to be slain
4 according to the desires of their enemies. ■ Now when Ammon and his brethren saw this
work of destruction among those whom they so dearly beloved, and among those who had
so dearly beloved them--for they were treated as though they were angels sent from God to
save them from everlasting destruction--therefore, when Ammon and his brethren saw this
great work of destruction, they were moved with compassion, and they said unto the king:

5 *“Let us gather together this people of the Lord, and let us go down to the land of
Zarahemla to our brethren the Nephites, and flee out of the hands of our enemies,
that we be not destroyed.”*

6 But the king said unto them:

*“Behold, the Nephites will destroy us, because of the many murders and sins we have
committed against them.”*

7 And Ammon said:

*“I will go and inquire of the Lord, and if he say unto us, go down unto our brethren,
will ye go?”*

8 And the king said unto him:

*“Yea, if the Lord saith unto us go, we will go down unto our brethren, and we will be
their slaves until we repair unto them the many murders and sins which we have
committed against them.”*

9 But Ammon said unto him:

*“It is against the law of our brethren, which was established by my father, that there
should be any slaves among them; therefore let us go down and rely upon the mercies
of our brethren.”*

10 But the king said unto him:

*“Inquire of the Lord, and if he saith unto us go, we will go; otherwise we will perish
in the land.”*

11 And it came to pass that Ammon went and inquired of the Lord, and the Lord said unto him:

12 *“Get this people out of this land, that they perish not; for Satan has great hold on the hearts of the Amalekites, who do stir up the Lamanites to anger against their brethren to slay them; therefore get thee out of this land; and blessed are this people in this generation, for I will preserve them.”*

13 And now it came to pass that Ammon went and told the king all the words which the Lord had said unto him. ■ And they gathered together all their people, yea, all the people of the Lord, and did gather together all their flocks and herds, and departed out of the land, and came into the wilderness which divided the land of Nephi from the land of Zarahemla, and came over near the borders of the land.

15 And it came to pass that Ammon said unto them:

“Behold, I and my brethren will go forth into the land of Zarahemla, and ye shall remain here until we return; and we will try the hearts of our brethren, whether they will that ye shall come into their land.”

16 And it came to pass that as Ammon was going forth into the land, that he and his brethren met Alma, over in the place of which has been spoken; and behold, this was a joyful meeting. ■ Now the joy of Ammon was so great even that he was full; yea, he was swallowed up in the joy of his God, even to the exhausting of his strength; and he fell again to the earth. ■ Now was not this exceeding joy? Behold, this is joy which none receiveth save it be the truly penitent and humble seeker of happiness. ■ Now the joy of Alma in meeting his brethren was truly great, and also the joy of Aaron, of Omner, and Himni; but behold their joy was not that to exceed their strength.

Page 277

20 And now it came to pass that Alma conducted his brethren back to the land of Zarahemla; even to his own house. And they went and told the chief judge all the things that had happened unto them in the land of Nephi, among their brethren, the Lamanites.

21 And it came to pass that the chief judge sent a proclamation throughout all the land, desiring the voice of the people concerning the admitting their brethren, who were the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi. ■ And it came to pass that the voice of the people came, saying:

22 *“Behold, we will give up the land of Jershon, which is on the east by the sea, which joins the land Bountiful, which is on the south of the land Bountiful; and this land Jershon is the land which we will give unto our brethren for an inheritance.*

23 *And behold, we will set our armies between the land Jershon and the land Nephi, that we may protect our brethren in the land Jershon; and this we do for our brethren, on account of their fear to take up arms against their brethren lest they should commit sin; and this their great fear came because of their sore repentance which they had, on account of their many murders and their awful wickedness. ■ And now behold, this will we do unto our brethren, that they may inherit the land Jershon; and we will guard them from their enemies with our armies, on condition that they will give us a portion of their substance to assist us that we may maintain our armies.”*

25 Now, it came to pass that when Ammon had heard this, he returned to the people of Anti-Nephi-Lehi, and also Alma with him, into the wilderness, where they had pitched their tents, and made known unto them all these things. And Alma also related unto them his conversion, with Ammon and Aaron, and his brethren. ■ And it came to pass that it did

26

27 cause great joy among them. And they went down into the land of Jershon, and took
possession of the land of Jershon; and they were called by the Nephites the people of
Ammon; therefore they were distinguished by that name ever after. ■ And they were among
the people of Nephi, and also numbered among the people who were of the church of God.
And they were also distinguished for their zeal towards God, and also towards men; for
28 they were perfectly honest and upright in all things; and they were firm in the faith of
Christ, even unto the end. ■ And they did look upon shedding the blood of their brethren
with the greatest abhorrence; and they never could be prevailed upon to take up arms
against their brethren; and they never did look upon death with any degree of terror, for
29 their hope and views of Christ and the resurrection; therefore, death was swallowed up to
them by the victory of Christ over it. ■ Therefore, they would suffer death in the most
aggravating and distressing manner which could be inflicted by their brethren, before they
30 would take the sword or cimeter to smite them. ■ And thus they were a zealous and
beloved people, a highly favored people of the Lord.

Page 278

CHAPTER TWENTY-EIGHT

The Lamanites are defeated in a tremendous battle

Tens of thousands are slain

*The wicked are consigned to a state of endless woe;
the righteous attain a never-ending happiness.*

1 And now it came to pass that after the people of Ammon were established in the land of
Jershon, and a church also established in the land of Jershon, and the armies of the
Nephites were set round about the land of Jershon, yea, in all the borders round about the
land of Zarahemla; behold the armies of the Lamanites had followed their brethren into the
2 wilderness. ■ And thus there was a tremendous battle; yea, even such an one as never had
been known among all the people in the land from the time Lehi left Jerusalem; yea, and
3 tens of thousands of the Lamanites were slain and scattered abroad. ■ Yea, and also there
was a tremendous slaughter among the people of Nephi; nevertheless, the Lamanites were
4 driven and scattered, and the people of Nephi returned again to their land. ■ And now this
was a time that there was a great mourning and lamentation heard throughout all the land,
5 among all the people of Nephi-- ■ Yea, the cry of widows mourning for their husbands,
and also of fathers mourning for their sons, and the daughter for the brother, yea, the
brother for the father; and thus the cry of mourning was heard among all of them,
6 mourning for their kindred who had been slain. ■ And now surely this was a sorrowful
7 day; yea, a time of solemnity, and a time of much fasting and prayer. ■ And thus endeth
8 the fifteenth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi; ■ And this is the
account of Ammon and his brethren, their journeyings in the land of Nephi, their sufferings
in the land, their sorrows, and their afflictions, and their incomprehensible joy, and the
reception and safety of the brethren in the land of Jershon. And now may the Lord, the
Redeemer of all men, bless their souls forever.

9 And this is the account of the wars and contentions among the Nephites, and also the wars
between the Nephites and the Lamanites; and the *fifteenth year of the reign of the judges
10 is ended. ■ And from the first year to the fifteenth has brought to pass the destruction of
many thousand lives; yea, it has brought to pass an awful scene of bloodshed. ■ And the
11 bodies of many thousands are laid low in the earth, while the bodies of many thousands are
moldering in heaps upon the face of the earth; yea, and many thousands are mourning for
the loss of their kindred, because they have reason to fear, according to the promises of the
12 Lord, that they are consigned to a state of endless wo. ■ While many thousands of others
truly mourn for the loss of their kindred, yet they rejoice and exult in the hope, and even
know, according to the promises of the Lord, that they are raised to dwell at the right hand

76 B.C.

Page 279

13 of God, in a state of never-ending happiness. ■ And thus we see how great the inequality of
14 man is because of sin and transgression, and the power of the devil, which comes by the
cunning plans which he hath devised to ensnare the hearts of men. ■ And thus we see the
great call of diligence of men to labor in the vineyards of the Lord; and thus we see the
great reason of sorrow, and also of rejoicing--sorrow because of death and destruction
among men, and joy because of the light of Christ unto life.

CHAPTER TWENTY-NINE

Alma desires to cry repentance with angelic zeal

The Lord grants teachers for all nations

Alma glories in the Lord's work and in the success of Ammon and his brethren.

1 “O that I were an angel,
and could have the wish of mine heart,
that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God,
with a voice to shake the earth,
and cry repentance unto every people!

2 Yea, I would declare unto every soul, as with the voice of thunder,
repentance and the plan of redemption,
that they should repent and come unto our God,
that there might not be more sorrow upon all the face of the earth.

3 But behold, I am a man, and do sin in my wish;
for I ought to be content with the things which the Lord hath allotted unto me.

4 I ought not to harrow up in my desires,
the firm decree of a just God,
for I know that he granteth unto men according to their desire,
whether it be unto death or unto life;
yea, I know that he allotteth unto men,
yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable,
according to their wills, whether they be unto salvation or unto destruction.

5 Yea, and I know that good and evil have come before all men;
he that knoweth not good from evil is blameless;
but he that knoweth good and evil, to him it is given according to his desires,
whether he desireth good or evil,
life or death,
joy or remorse of conscience.

6 Now, seeing that I know these things,
why should I desire more than to perform the work to which I have been called?

7 Why should I desire that I were an angel,
that I could speak unto all the ends of the earth?

8 For behold, the Lord doth grant unto all nations, of their own nation and tongue,
to teach his word, yea, in wisdom, all that he seeth fit that they should have;
therefore we see that the Lord doth counsel in wisdom,
according to that which is just and true.

9 I know that which the Lord hath commanded me,
and I glory in it.
I do not glory of myself,
but I glory in that which the Lord hath commanded me;
yea, and this is my glory,
that perhaps I may be an instrument in the hands of God
to bring some soul to repentance;
and this is my joy.

- 10 *And behold, when I see many of my brethren truly penitent,
and coming to the Lord their God,
then is my soul filled with joy;
then do I remember what the Lord has done for me,
yea, even that he hath heard my prayer;
yea, then do I remember his merciful arm which he extended towards me.*
- 11 *Yea, and I also remember the captivity of my fathers;
for I surely do know that the Lord did deliver them out of bondage,
and by this did establish his church;
yea, the Lord God, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
did deliver them out of bondage.*
- 12 *Yea, I have always remembered the captivity of my fathers;
and that same God who delivered them out of the hands of the Egyptians
did deliver them out of bondage.*
- 13 *Yea, and that same God did establish his church among them;
yea, and that same God hath called me by a holy calling,
to preach the word unto this people,
and hath given me much success, in the which my joy is full.*
- 14 *But I do not joy in my own success alone,
but my joy is more full because of the success of my brethren,
who have been up to the land of Nephi.*
- 15 *Behold, they have labored exceedingly, and have brought forth much fruit;
and how great shall be their reward!*
- 16 *Now, when I think of the success of these my brethren
my soul is carried away,
even to the separation of it from the body, as it were,
so great is my joy.*
- 17 *And now may God grant unto these, my brethren,
that they may sit down in the kingdom of God;
yea, and also all those who are the fruit of their labors
that they may go no more out,
but that they may praise him forever.*

*And may God grant that it may be done according to my words,
even as I have spoken. Amen.”*

CHAPTER THIRTY

*Korihor, the antichrist, ridicules Christ, the atonement, and the spirit of prophecy
He teaches that there is no God, no fall of man, no penalty for sin, and no Christ
Alma testifies that Christ shall come and that all things denote there is a God
Korihor demands a sign and is struck dumb
The devil had appeared to Korihor as an angel and taught him what to say
He is trodden down and dies.*

- 1 Behold, now it came to pass that after the people of Ammon were established in the land of
Jershon, yea, and also after the Lamanites were driven out of the land, and their dead were
2 buried by the people of the land-- ■ Now their dead were not numbered because of the
greatness of their numbers; neither were the dead of the Nephites numbered--but it came to
pass after they had buried their dead, and also after the days of fasting, and mourning, and
prayer, (and it was in the sixteenth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi)
3 there began to be continual peace throughout all the land. ■ Yea, and the people did

4 observe to keep the commandments of the Lord; and they were strict in observing the ordinances of God, according to the law of Moses; for they were taught to keep the law of Moses until it should be fulfilled. And thus the people did have no disturbance in all the sixteenth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

5 And it came to pass that in the commencement of the seventeenth year of the reign of the
6 judges, there was continual peace. ■ But it came to pass in the *latter end of the
7 seventeenth year, there came a man into the land of Zarahemla, and he was Anti-Christ, for
8 he began to preach unto the people against the prophecies which had been spoken by the
9 prophets, concerning the coming of Christ. ■ Now there was no law against a man's belief;
10 for it was strictly contrary to the commands of God that there should be a law which
11 should bring men on to unequal grounds. ■ For thus saith the scripture:

“Choose ye this day, whom ye will serve.”

9 Now if a man desired to serve God, it was his privilege; or rather, if he believed in God it
10 was his privilege to serve him; but if he did not believe in him there was no law to punish
11 him. ■ But if he murdered he was punished unto death; and if he robbed he was also
12 punished; and if he stole he was also punished; and if he committed adultery he was also
13 punished; yea, for all this wickedness they were punished. ■ For there was a law that men
14 should be judged according to their crimes. Nevertheless, there was no law against a man's
15 belief; therefore, a man was punished only for the crimes which he had done; therefore all
16 men were on equal grounds. ■ And this Anti-Christ, whose name was Korihor, (and the
17 law could have no hold upon him) began to preach unto the people that there should be no
18 Christ. 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. ■ 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? Behold, ye cannot know of things
which ye do not see; therefore ye cannot know that there shall be a Christ. ■ Ye look
forward and say that ye see a remission of your sins. But behold, it is the effect of a
frenzied mind; and this derangement of your minds comes because of the traditions of
your fathers, which lead you away into a belief of things which are not so.”*

17 And many more such things did he say unto them, telling them that there could be no
18 atonement made for the sins of men, but every man fared in this life according to the
19 management of the creature; therefore every man prospered according to his genius, and
20 that every man conquered according to his strength; and whatsoever a man did was no
21 crime. ■ And thus he did preach unto them, leading away the hearts of many, causing them
22 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.

19 Now this man went over to the land of Jershon also, to preach these things among the
20 people of Ammon, who were once the people of the Lamanites. ■ But behold they were
21 more wise than many of the Nephites; for they took him, and bound him, and carried him
22 before Ammon, who was a high priest over that people.

21 And it came to pass that he caused that he should be carried out of the land. And he came
22 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.

22 And it came to pass that the high priest said unto him:

“Why do ye go about perverting the ways of the Lord? Why do ye teach this people

that there shall be no Christ, to interrupt their rejoicings? Why do ye speak against all the prophecies of the holy prophets?"

23 Now the high priest's name was Giddonah. And Korihor said unto him:

24 *"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. ■ Ye say that this people is a free people. Behold, I say they are in bondage. Ye say that those ancient prophecies are true. Behold, I say that ye do not know that they are true. ■ 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. ■ And ye also say that Christ shall come. But behold, I say that ye do not know that there shall be a Christ. 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; 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. ■ Yea, they durst not make use of that which is their own lest they should offend their priests, who do yoke them according to their desires, and have 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, who they say is God--a being who never has been seen or known, who never was nor ever will be."*

29 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; 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 who was governor over all the land.

30 And it came to pass that when he was brought before Alma and the chief judge, he did go on in the same manner as he did in the land of Gideon; yea, he went on to blaspheme.

31 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 on the labors of the people. ■ Now Alma said unto him:

32 *"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. ■ And notwithstanding the many labors which I have performed in the church, I have never received so much as even one senine for my labor; neither has any of my brethren, save it were in the judgment-seat; and then we have received only according to law for our time. ■ 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? ■ Then why sayest thou that we preach unto this people to get gain, when thou, of thyself, knowest that we receive no gain? And now, believest thou that we deceive this people, that causes such joy in their hearts?"*

36 And Korihor answered him,
"Yea."

37 And then Alma said unto him:
"Believest thou that there is a God?"

38 And he answered,

“Nay.”

39 Now Alma said unto him:

40 *“Will ye deny again that there is a God, and also deny the Christ? For behold, I say*
41 *unto you, I know there is a God, and also that Christ shall come. ■ And now what*
42 *evidence have ye that there is no God, or that Christ cometh not? I say unto you that*
43 *ye have none, save it be your word only. ■ But, behold, I have all things as a*
44 *testimony that these things are true; and ye also have all things as a testimony unto*
45 *you that they are true; and will ye deny them? Believest thou that these things are*
46 *true? ■ Behold, I know that thou believest, but thou art possessed with a lying spirit,*
47 *and ye have put off the Spirit of God that it may have no place in you; but the devil*
48 *has power over you, and he doth carry you about, working devices that he may*
49 *destroy the children of God.”*

43 And now Korihor said unto Alma:

44 *“If thou wilt show me a sign, that I may be convinced that there is a God, yea, show*
45 *unto me that he hath power, and then will I be convinced of the truth of thy words.”*

44 But Alma said unto him:

45 *“Thou hast had signs enough; will ye tempt your God? Will ye say, Show unto me a*
46 *sign, when ye have the testimony of all these thy brethren, and also all the holy*
47 *prophets? The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a*
48 *God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its*
49 *motion, yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form do witness that*
50 *there is a Supreme Creator. ■ And yet do ye go about, leading away the hearts of this*
51 *people, testifying unto them there is no God? And yet will ye deny against all these*
52 *witnesses? And he said: Yea, I will deny, except ye shall show me a sign.”*

46 And now it came to pass that Alma said unto him:

47 *“Behold, I am grieved because of the hardness of your heart, yea, that ye will still*
48 *resist the spirit of the truth, that thy soul may be destroyed. ■ But behold, it is better*
49 *that thy soul should be lost than that thou shouldst be the means of bringing many*
50 *souls down to destruction, by thy lying and by thy flattering words; therefore if thou*
51 *shalt deny again, behold God shall smite thee, that thou shalt become dumb, that*
52 *thou shalt never open thy mouth any more, that thou shalt not deceive this people any*
53 *more. ■ Now Korihor said unto him: I do not deny the existence of a God, but I do*
54 *not believe that there is a God; and I say also, that ye do not know that there is a*
55 *God; and except ye show me a sign, I will not believe.”*

49 Now Alma said unto him:

50 *“This will I give unto thee for a sign, that thou shalt be struck dumb, according to my*
51 *words; and I say, that in the name of God, ye shall be struck dumb, that ye shall no*
52 *more have utterance.”*

51 Now when Alma had said these words, Korihor was struck dumb, that he could not have
52 utterance, according to the words of Alma. ■ And now when the chief judge saw this, he
53 put forth his hand and wrote unto Korihor, saying:

54 *“Art thou convinced of the power of God? In whom did ye desire that Alma should*
55 *show forth his sign? Would ye that he should afflict others, to show unto thee a sign?*
56 *Behold, he has showed unto you a sign; and now will ye dispute more?”*

52 And Korihor put forth his hand and wrote, saying:

53 *“I know that I am dumb, for I cannot speak; and I know that nothing save it were the*
54 *power of God could bring this upon me; yea, and I always knew that there was a*
55 *God. ■ But behold, the devil hath deceived me; for he appeared unto me in the form*
56 *of an angel, and said unto me:*

57 *“Go and reclaim this people, for they have all gone*
58 *astray after an unknown God.”*

And he said 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; 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.”

54 Now when he had said this, he besought that Alma should pray unto God, that the curse
55 might be taken from him. ■ 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.”

56 And it came to pass that the curse was not taken off of Korihor; but he was cast out, and
57 went about from house to house begging for his food. ■ 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.

58 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. And Korihor did go about from house to house, begging food for his support.

59 And it came to pass that as he went forth among the people, yea, among a people who had separated themselves from the Nephites and called themselves Zoramites, being led by a
60 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. ■ 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.

Page 285

CHAPTER THIRTY-ONE

*Alma heads a mission to reclaim the apostate Zoramites
The Zoramites deny Christ, believe in a false concept of election,
and worship with set prayers*

*The missionaries are filled with the Holy Spirit
Their afflictions are swallowed up in the joy of Christ.*

1 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, who was their leader,
2 was leading the hearts of the people to bow down to dumb idols, his heart again began to
sicken because of the iniquity of the people. ■ For it was the cause of great sorrow to Alma
to know of iniquity among his people; therefore his heart was exceedingly sorrowful
because of the separation of the Zoramites from the Nephites.

3 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 of Jershon, which also bordered upon the wilderness
south, which wilderness was full of the Lamanites.

4 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.

5 And now, as the preaching of the word had a great 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. ■ Therefore he took Ammon,
6 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, who were at Melek; and he also
7 took two of his sons. ■ Now the eldest of his sons he took not with him, and his name was
Helaman; but the names of those whom he took with him were Shiblón and Coriantón; and
these are the names of those who went with him among the Zoramites, to preach unto them
the word.

8 Now the Zoramites were dissenters from the Nephites; therefore they had had the word of
9 God preached unto them. ■ 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
10 Moses. ■ 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,
11 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.

12 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; and they did worship after a manner
13 which Alma and his brethren had never beheld; ■ For they had a place built up in the
center of their synagogue, a place for standing, which was high above the head, and the top
14 thereof would only admit one person. ■ Therefore, whosoever desired to worship must go
forth and stand upon the top thereof, and stretch forth his hands towards heaven, and cry
with a loud voice, saying:

15 *“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
16 *forever. ■ Holy God, we believe that thou hast separated us from our brethren; and*
we do not believe in the tradition 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; and also thou hast made it known unto us that there shall be no Christ.
17 *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; 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
18 *wander far from thee, our God. ■ And again we thank thee, O God, that we are a*
chosen and a holy people. Amen.”

19 Now it came to pass that after Alma and his brethren and his sons had heard these prayers,
20 they were astonished beyond all measure. ■ For behold, every man did go forth and offer
up these same prayers. ■ Now the place was called by them Rameumptom, which, being
21 interpreted, is the holy stand. ■ Now, from this stand they did offer up, every man, the
22 selfsame prayer unto God, thanking their God that they were chosen of him, and that he
did not lead 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.

23 Now, after 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
24 again to the holy stand, to offer up thanks after their manner. ■ 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. ■ Yea, and he also saw that their hearts were lifted up unto great boasting, in their pride. ■ And he lifted up his voice to heaven, and cried, saying:

25
26 *“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?*
27 *Behold, O God, they cry unto thee,
and yet their hearts are swallowed up in their pride.
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.*
28 *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;
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.”*
29 *Yea, and they say that thou hast made it known unto them
that there shall be no Christ.*
30 *O Lord God, how long wilt thou suffer that such wickedness and infidelity
shall be among this people?
O Lord, wilt thou give me strength,
that I may bear with mine infirmities.
For I am infirm,
and such wickedness among this people doth pain my soul.*
31 *O Lord, my heart is exceedingly sorrowful;
wilt thou comfort my soul in Christ.
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.*
32 *O Lord, wilt thou comfort my soul,
and give unto me success,
and also my fellow laborers who 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.*
33 *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.*
34 *O Lord, wilt thou grant unto us
that we may have success in bringing them again unto thee in Christ.*
35 *Behold, O Lord, their souls are precious,
and many of them are our brethren;
therefore, give unto us, O Lord,
power and wisdom that we may bring these, our brethren, again unto thee.”*

36 Now it came to pass that when Alma had said these words, that he clapped his hands upon

37 all them who were with him. And behold, as he clapped his hands upon them, they were
38 filled with the Holy Spirit. ■ 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. ■ 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. Now this was according to
the prayer of Alma; and this because he prayed in faith.

CHAPTER THIRTY-TWO

Page 288

*Alma teaches the poor whose afflictions had humbled them
Faith is a hope in that which is not seen which is true
Alma testifies that angels minister to men, women, and children
Alma compares the word unto a seed
It must be planted and nourished
Then it grows into a tree from which the fruit of eternal life is picked.*

1 And it came to pass that they did go forth, and began to preach the word of God unto the
2 people, entering into their synagogues, and into their houses; yea, and even they did preach
the word in their streets. ■ And it came to pass that after much labor among them, they
3 began to have success among the poor class of people; for behold, they were cast out of the
synagogues because of the coarseness of their apparel-- ■ 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 brethren as dross; therefore they
were poor as to things of the world; and also they were poor in heart.

4 Now, as Alma was teaching and speaking unto the people upon the hill Onidah, there came
a great multitude unto him, who were those of whom we have been speaking, of whom
5 were poor in heart, because of their poverty as to the things of the world. ■ And they came
unto Alma; and the one who was the foremost among them said 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; 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 our exceeding poverty; and we have no place to worship
our God; and behold, what shall we do?”*

6 And now when Alma heard this, he turned him about, his face immediately towards him,
and he beheld with great joy; for he beheld that their afflictions had truly humbled them
7 and that they were in a preparation to hear the word. ■ Therefore he did say no more to the
other multitude; but he stretched forth his hand, and cried unto those whom he beheld, who
were truly penitent, and said unto them:

8, 9 *“I behold that ye are lowly in heart; and if so, blessed are ye. ■ Behold thy
brother hath said, What shall we do?--for we are cast out of our synagogues, that we
cannot worship our God. ■ Behold I say unto you, do ye suppose that ye cannot
10 worship God save it be in your synagogues only? And moreover, I would ask, do ye
11 suppose that ye must not worship God only once in a week? ■ I say unto you, it is
12 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; 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.*

13 *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; and now surely,
whosoever repenteth shall find mercy; and he that findeth mercy and endureth to the*

Page 289

end the same shall be saved.

14 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
15 themselves because of the word? ■ Yea, he that truly humbleth himself, and repenteth
of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed--yea, much more
16 blessed than they who are compelled to be humble because of their exceeding
poverty. ■ Therefore, blessed are they who humble themselves without being
17 compelled to be humble; or rather, in other words, 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. ■ Yea,
there are many who do say:

“If thou wilt show unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a
surety; then we shall believe.”

18 Now I ask, is this faith? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; for if a man knoweth a thing he
19 hath no cause to believe, for he knoweth it. ■ And now, how much more cursed is he
that knoweth the will of God and doeth it not, than he that only believeth, or only
20 hath cause to believe, and falleth into transgression? ■ Now of this thing ye must
judge. 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.

21 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
22 true. ■ 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
23 place, that ye should believe, yea, even on his word. ■ And now, he imparteth his
word by angels unto men, yea, not only men but women also. Now this is not all;
little children do have words given unto them many times which confound the wise
and the learned.

24 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
25 I mean to judge you only according to that which is true--■ For I do not mean that ye
all of you have been compelled to humble yourselves; for I verily believe that there
are some among you who would humble themselves, let them be in whatsoever
26 circumstances they might. ■ Now, as I said concerning faith--that it was not a perfect
knowledge--even so it is with my words. Ye cannot know of their surety at first, unto
27 perfection, any more than faith is a perfect knowledge. ■ 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 desire
work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of
my words.

28 Now, we will compare the word unto a seed. 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 resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will
begin to swell within your breasts; 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
29 understanding, yea, it beginneth to be delicious to me. ■ Now behold, would not this
increase your faith? I say unto you, Yea; nevertheless it hath not grown up to a
30 perfect knowledge. ■ But behold, as the seed swelleth, and sprouteth, and beginneth
to grow, then you must needs say that the seed is good; for behold it swelleth, and
sprouteth, and beginneth to grow. 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
31 seed; for behold it sprouteth and beginneth to grow. ■ And now, behold, are ye sure

32 *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.

33 *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
34 *good. ■ And now, behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect*
in that thing, and your faith is dormant; and this because ye know, for 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.

35 *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; and
36 *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 was good.
37 *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.”

And now behold, if ye nourish it with much care it will get root, and grow up, and
38 *bring forth fruit. ■ 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 scorseth it,
39 *because it hath no root it withers away, and ye pluck it up and cast it out. ■ Now, this*
is not because the seed was not good, neither is it because the fruit thereof would not
be desirable; but it is because your ground is barren, and ye will not nourish the tree,
40 *therefore ye cannot have the fruit thereof. ■ And thus, 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
41 *of the tree of life. ■ 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, it shall take root; and behold it shall be a tree springing
42 *up unto everlasting life. ■ 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; and ye shall feast upon this fruit even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not,
43 *neither shall ye thirst. ■ Then, my brethren, ye shall reap the rewards of your faith,*
and your diligence, and patience, and long-suffering, waiting for the tree to bring
forth fruit unto you.”

Page 291

CHAPTER THIRTY-THREE

Zenos taught that men should pray and worship in all places,
and that judgments are turned away because of the Son
Zenock taught that mercy is bestowed because of the Son
Moses had lifted up in the wilderness a type of the Son of God.

1 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
2 faith. ■ And Alma said unto them:

“Behold, ye have said that ye could not worship your God because ye are cast out of
your synagogues. But behold, I say unto you, if ye suppose that ye cannot worship
God, ye do greatly err, and ye ought to search the scriptures; if ye suppose that they
3 *have taught you this, ye do not understand them. ■ Do ye remember to have read*

4 what Zenos, the prophet of old, has said concerning prayer or worship? For he said:
“Thou art merciful, O God, for thou hast heard my prayer, even when I was
5 in the wilderness; yea, thou wast merciful when I prayed concerning those
who were mine enemies, and thou didst turn them to me. ■ Yea, O God, and
6 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. ■ And again, O God,
7 when I did turn to my house thou didst hear me in my prayer. ■ And when I
did turn unto my closet, O Lord, and prayed unto thee, thou didst hear me.
8 Yea, thou art merciful unto thy children when they cry unto thee, to be heard
9 of thee and not of men, and thou wilt hear them. ■ Yea, O God, thou hast
been merciful unto me, and heard my cries in the midst of thy congregations.
10 Yea, and thou hast also heard me when I have been cast out and have been
despised by mine enemies; yea, thou didst hear my cries, and wast angry with
11 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; 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.”

Page 292

12 And now Alma said unto them:

13 “Do ye believe those scriptures which have been written by them of old? Behold,
if ye do, ye must believe what Zenos said; for, behold he said:

“Thou hast turned away thy judgments because of thy Son.”

14 Now behold, my brethren, I would ask if ye have read the scriptures? If ye have, how
15 can ye disbelieve on the Son of God? ■ For it is not written that Zenos alone spake of
16 these things, but Zenock also spake of these things-- ■ For behold, he said:

“Thou art angry, O Lord, with this people, because they will not understand
thy mercies which thou hast bestowed upon them because of thy Son.”

17 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
18 death. ■ But behold, this is not all; these are not the only ones who have spoken
19 concerning the Son of God. ■ Behold, he was spoken of by Moses; yea, and behold a
type was raised up in the wilderness, that whosoever would look upon it might live.
20 And many did look and live. ■ But few understood the meaning of those things, and
this because of the hardness of their hearts. But there were many who were so
hardened that they would not look, therefore they perished. Now the reason they
21 would not look is because they did not believe that it would heal them. ■ O my
brethren, if ye could be healed by merely casting about your eyes that ye might be
healed, would ye not behold quickly, or would ye rather harden your hearts in
22 unbelief, and be slothful, that ye would not cast about your eyes, that ye might
perish? ■ 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; 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.

23 And now, my brethren, I desire that ye shall plant this word in your hearts, and
as it beginneth to swell even so nourish it by your faith. And behold, it will become a
tree, springing up in you unto everlasting life. 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.”

Page 293

*Amulek testifies that the word is in Christ unto salvation
Unless an atonement is made, all mankind must perish
The whole law of Moses points toward the sacrifice of the Son of God
The eternal plan of redemption is based on faith and repentance
Pray for temporal and spiritual blessings
This life is the time for men to prepare to meet God
Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.*

1 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:

2 *“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; 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-- ■ 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. ■ And ye also beheld that my brother has proved unto you, in many instances, that the word is in Christ unto salvation. ■ My brother has called upon the words of Zenos, that redemption cometh through the Son of God, and also upon the words of Zenock; and also he has appealed unto Moses, to prove that these things are true.*

8 *And now, behold, I will testify unto you of myself that these things are true. 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. ■ For it is expedient that an atonement should be made; for according to the great plan of the Eternal God there must be an atonement made, or else all mankind must unavoidably perish; 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. ■ 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 eternal sacrifice. ■ Now there is not any man that can sacrifice his own blood which will atone for the sins of another.*

9 *Now, if a man murdereth, behold will our law, which is just, take the life of his brother? I say unto you, Nay. ■ But the law requireth the life of him who hath murdered; therefore there can be 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; 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 be all fulfilled, every jot and tittle, and none shall have passed away. And behold, this is the whole meaning of the law, every whit 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; 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.*

16 *And thus mercy can satisfy the demands of justice, and encircles them in the arms of safety, while he that exercises no faith unto repentance is exposed to the whole law of the demands of justice; therefore only unto him that has faith unto repentance is*

17 *brought about the great and eternal plan of redemption. ■ Therefore may God grant unto you, my brethren, that ye may begin to exercise your faith unto repentance, that ye begin to call upon his holy name, that he would have mercy upon you;*

18 *Yea, cry unto him for mercy; for he is mighty to save.*

19 *Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him.*

20 *Cry unto him when ye are in your fields, yea, over all your flocks.*

21 *Cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, mid-day, and evening.*

22 *Yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies.*

23 *Yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness.*

24 *Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them.*

25 *Cry over the flocks of your fields, that they may increase.*

26 *But this is not all;*

*ye must pour out your souls in your closets,
and your secret places,
and in your wilderness.*

27 *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 who are around you.*

28 *And now behold, my beloved 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 who stand in need--

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 who do deny the faith.

29 *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 under foot of men.”

30 *And now, my brethren, I would that, after ye have received so many witnesses, seeing that the holy scriptures testify of these things, ye come forth and bring fruit unto repentance. ■ 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. ■ For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors.*

33 *And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end;*

34 *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. ■ Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis,*

34 *that I will repent, that I will return to my God. 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. ■ For behold, if ye*

35 *have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have*

36 *become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; 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. ■ 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; yea, and he has also said that the righteous shall sit down in his kingdom, to go no more out; but their garments should be made white through the blood of the Lamb.*

37 *And now, my beloved brethren, I desire that ye should remember these things,*
38 *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 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; 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,*
39 *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; for behold, he rewardeth you no good thing.*

40 *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;*
41 *But that ye have patience, and bear with those afflictions, with a firm hope that ye shall one day rest from all your afflictions.”*

Page 296

CHAPTER THIRTY-FIVE

*The preaching of the word destroys the craft of the Zoramites
They expel the converts, who then join the people of Ammon in Jershon
Alma sorrows because of the wickedness of the people.*

1 Now it came to pass that after Amulek had made an end of these words, they withdrew
2 themselves from the multitude and came over into the land of Jershon. ■ Yea, and the rest of the brethren, after they had preached the word unto the Zoramites, also came over into the land of Jershon.

3 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. ■ And they sent and gathered together throughout all the land all the people, and
4 consulted with them concerning the words which had been spoken. ■ Now their rulers and
5 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.

6 And it came to pass that after they had found out the minds of all the people, those who 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.

7, 8 And it came to pass that Alma and his brethren did minister unto them. ■ Now the people of the Zoramites were angry with the people of Ammon who 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 who came over from them
9 into their land. ■ And he breathed out many threatenings against them. 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; and they did nourish

Page 297

10 them, and did clothe them, and did give unto them lands for their inheritance; and they did
administer unto them according to their wants. ■ Now this did stir up the Zoramites to
11 anger against the people of Ammon, and they began to mix with the Lamanites and to stir
them up also to anger against them. ■ And thus the Zoramites and the Lamanites began to
make preparations for war against the people of Ammon, and also against the Nephites.
12 And thus ended the *seventeenth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi. **74 B.C.**

13 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; and thus
commenced a war betwixt the Lamanites and the Nephites, in the eighteenth year of the
14 reign of the judges; and an account shall be given of their wars hereafter. ■ 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; but they have lands for their inheritance in the land of Jershon, and they have
taken up arms to defend themselves, and their wives, and children, and their lands.

15 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; and seeing that the
hearts of the people began to wax hard, and that they began to be offended because of the
16 strictness of the word, his heart was exceedingly sorrowful. ■ 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. And we have an account
of his commandments, which he gave unto them according to his own record.