

August 19–25

Alma 53–63

"Preserved By His Marvelous Power"



Obedience

Alma 53:10-12

Obedience

Alma 53:13-15

Why were the People of Ammon now considering breaking their oath by taking up arms?

Do you think the people of Ammon were now justified in breaking they're oath and taking up arms?

Why do you think Helaman was so opposed to people of Ammon taking up arms to support the Nephites?

Richard G. Scott

"The people of Ammon were at a critical moment of their spiritual lives. They had been true to their covenant never to take up arms. But they understood that fathers are responsible to provide protection to their families. That need seemed great enough to merit consideration of breaking their covenant.

"There wise priesthood leader, Helaman, knew that breaking a covenant with the Lord is never justified."
(CR, Oct. 2013)

D. Todd Christofferson

"What is the source of such moral and spiritual power, and how do we obtain it? The source is God. Our access to that power is through our covenants with Him. A covenant is an agreement between God and man, an accord whose terms are set by God. In these divine agreements, God binds Himself to sustain, sanctify, and exalt us in return for our commitment to serve Him and keep His commandments." (CR, April 2009)

Obedience

Alma 53:16-19

What evidence do we have that liberty was of the utmost importance to the people of Ammon?

Why do you think they asked Helaman to be their leader?

Harold B. Lee

"The power of Satan will increase; we see it in evidence on every hand.... Now the only safety we have as members of this church is to do exactly what the Lord said to the Church in that day when the Church was organized. We must learn to give heed to the words and commandments that the Lord shall give through his prophet, as he receiveth them, walking in all holiness before me;... as if from mine own mouth, in all patience and faith." (CR, Oct. 1970)

Obedience

Alma 53:20-22

In what ways did they seem unlikely to be a strength to the Nephite army?

In what ways were they prepared to be a successful army?

Ruth B. Wright

"In a day of ever-changing values... I think about Helaman's stripling warriors. These young men, who were taught correct principles by their mothers, '... they were men who were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted.'

"Now, that means being true when you are tempted, being true when you don't want to be, being true when it means standing alone from the rest of the world. Remembering the example of these faithful young men strengthens me in my effort to be steadfast in obeying gospel principles." (CR, Oct. 1990)

Obedience

Alma 56:42-48

What specifically, regarding this circumstance, did their mothers know?

How did the their mothers know that “God would deliver them”?

What condition was placed on this blessing being fulfilled?

What did they do that demonstrates that “they did not doubt”?

What does this tell us about how these mothers lived their life?

Alma 58:11

Yea, and it came to pass that the Lord our God did visit us with assurances that he would deliver us; yea, insomuch that he did speak peace to our souls, and did grant unto us great faith, and did cause us that we should hope for our deliverance in him.

Mosiah 28:5-7

[5] And it came to pass that they did plead with their father many days that they might go up to the land of Nephi.

[6] And king Mosiah went and inquired of the Lord if he should let his sons go up among the Lamanites to preach the word.

[7] And the Lord said unto Mosiah: Let them go up, for many shall believe on heir words, and they shall have eternal life; and I will deliver thy sons out of the hands of the Lamanites.

Spencer W. Kimball

"These Lamanite women... devoted themselves to their families, teaching them to pray and 'walk uprightly before the Lord.' When their young boys who had taken no oath were forced to protect their families, and came to battle as 'Helaman's sons' they were unconquerable. Their mothers had promised them that 'If they did not doubt, God would deliver them.' These [young men] went into battle as Joseph went into the grove, with unwavering faith, and they emerged from many bloody battles and 'not one soul of them did perish.'... Their faith was justified and they all lived to return to their sweet Lamanite mothers who praised God for the miracle....

"These faithful [young men] declared as they met the onslaught of the enemy: 'We do not doubt... our mothers knew it.' In all history is there a parallel? Can any be found since Adam, with such faith and fortitude as these [young men]?" (CR, April 1949)

Neal A. Maxwell

"The reliance, of course, by these young men on their mothers is touching and profound, but the mothers first had to know 'it' in such a way that the young men, observing them closely and hearing them (as is always the case with children observing parents), did 'not doubt' That their mothers knew that 'it' was true." (That My Family Should Partake, pg. 59)

Obedience

Alma 56:51-56

How was this most unlikely fighting force able to accomplish the things that they had covenanted to do?

Obedience

Alma 57:19-22

What “word of command” did they “obey and observe with exactness”?

What do you think Helaman meant when he said, “even according to their faith it was done unto them”?

Spencer W. Kimball

"To be a righteous woman during the winding-up scenes on this earth, before the Second Coming of our Savior, is an especially noble calling. The righteous woman's strength and influence today can be tenfold what it might be in more tranquil times. She has been placed here to help to enrich, to protect, and to guard the home which is society's basic and most noble institution. Other institutions in society may falter and even fail, but the righteous woman can help to save the home, which may be the last and only sanctuary some mortals know in the midst of storm and strife."

("Privileges and Responsibilities of Sisters," Ensign, Nov. 1978)

Obedience

Alma 57:24-27

What reason did Helaman give for God preserving the stripling warriors with His “miraculous power”?

Why do you think the stripling warriors were spared while other righteous men were not?

Obedience

Alma 58:10-12

What was the Lord's response to their prayers, covenants, and obedience?

Gene R. Cook

"Verse 11 probably provides one of the best descriptions of how the Lord responds to us, again through thoughts or feelings. He seems to do these four things:

1. He visits us with assurances that he will deliver us.
2. He speaks peace to our souls.
3. He grants us great faith.
4. He causes us that we should hope for our deliverance in him.

"What a tremendous way the Lord has of blessing us! He doesn't just solve our problems but he gives us assurance, peace, faith, and hope so that we will move forward to resolve our own problems under the direction of the Lord. Thus he makes us strong." (Raising Up a Family to the Lord, pg. 127-8)

David A. Bednar

"The stripling warriors in the Book of Mormon prayed earnestly that God would strengthen and deliver them out of the hands of their enemies. Interestingly, the answers to these prayers did not produce additional weapons or an increased number of troops. Instead, God granted these faithful warriors assurance that He would deliver them, peace to their souls, and great faith and hope for their deliverance in Him. Thus, the sons of Helaman did take courage, were fixed with a determination to conquer, and did go forth with all of their might against the Lamanites. Assurance, peace, faith, and hope initially might not seem like the blessings warriors in battle might want, but they were precisely the blessings these valiant young men needed to press forward and prevail physically and spiritually." (CR, Oct. 2013)

Obedience

Alma 58:39-40

Gordon B. Hinckley

"[You are] out there as the sons of Helaman in a world that is full of destructive influences.... But if you put your trust in the Almighty and follow the teachings of this Church and cling to it notwithstanding your wounds, you will be preserved and blessed and magnified and made happy." (LDS Church News, Sept. 21, 1996)

Next Week:

August 26–September 1

Helaman 1–6

"The Rock of Our Redeemer"

