

August 12–18

Alma 43–52

"Stand Fast in the Faith of Christ"



# Liberty

Alma 43:3-6

Why do you think Amalekites and Zoramites had “a more wicked and murderous disposition than the Lamanites”?



Neal A. Maxwell

“Willful dissent ages ago [among the Nephites] produced yet other symptoms that are worthy of our pondering today as life confronts us with determined dissenters who leave the Church - but who then cannot leave the Church alone.” (Plain and Precious Things, pg. 72)

# Liberty

Alma 43:7-10,14

What did the Nephite dissenters and Lamanites hope to accomplish by attacking the Nephites?

Why were the Nephites justified in going to war?



## Ezra Taft Benson

“Our stand for freedom is a most basic part of our religion; this stand helped get us to this earth, and our reaction to freedom in this life will have eternal consequences. Man has many duties, but he has no excuse that can compensate for his loss of liberty.”

(CR, Oct. 1966)

# Liberty

Alma 43:23

What measures did Moroni go to “to defend [the Nephites] against the Lamanites”?



## Ulisses Soares

"Captain Moroni... had the courage to defend the truth at a time when there were many dissensions and wars which put at risk the very survival of the entire Nephite nation. Although he was brilliant in exercising his responsibilities, Moroni remained humble. This and other attributes made him an extraordinary instrument in the hands of God at that time... All of Moroni's attributes stemmed from his great faith in God and in the Lord Jesus Christ and his firm determination to follow the voice of God and His prophets." (CR, April 2015)

# Liberty

## Alma 44:1-6

What prompted Moroni to tell Zerahemnah “now ye see that ye cannot destroy this our faith”?

What do you think Moroni means by "that liberty which binds us to our lands and our country"?

Why is Moroni so anxious to stop the fighting and have the Lamanites return peacefully to their lands?



## Hugh Nibley

“[Moroni's] magnanimous nature as a lover of peace and fair play always prevailed. He always calls the enemy his brothers, with whom he is loathe to contend.... In battle Moroni always calls an end to the fighting and proposes a settlement the moment the enemy shows signs of weakening.... With never a thought of punishing a beaten foe, Moroni sought no reprisals even after the gravest provocations. He was satisfied to take his defeated adversaries at their word and trust them to return to their homes or settle among the Nephites as they chose, even granting them Nephite lands for their rehabilitation.” (The Prophetic Book of Mormon, pg. 353)

# Liberty

Alma 45:22-24

What was beginning to take root in the church once the Nephites began to prosper?

In the pride cycle, what does pride lead to?



# Liberty

Alma 46:4-10

What did Amalickiah do to accomplish his desire to be king and to “destroy the foundation of liberty”?

Why do you think that he was so successful in causing so much destruction among the Nephites?

## Ezra Taft Benson

"The children of Israel, willing to sacrifice liberty, wanted Moses to be their king. Generations later their descendants begged Samuel the prophet to give them a king. He pointed out the fallacy of their reasoning. Samuel, like other great spiritual leaders, ancient and modern, saw the results that would follow the surrender of liberty.

"In that sacred volume of scripture, the Book of Mormon, we note the great and prolonged struggle for liberty. We also note the complacency of the people and their frequent willingness to give up their liberty for the promises of a would-be provider.

"The record reveals that a man 'of cunning device... and... many flattering words... sought... to destroy the foundation of liberty which God had granted unto them'" (CR, Oct. 1962)



# Liberty

Alma 46:11-13

What did Moroni do to try to make sure that “the blessings of liberty [would] rest upon his brethren”?

## Ezra Taft Benson

"Moroni raised a title of liberty and wrote upon it these words: 'In memory of our God, our religion, and freedom, and our peace, our wives, and our children.'... All these things were a part of his religion, as they are of our religion today.'

"Should we counsel people, 'Just live your religion. There's no need to get involved in the fight for freedom'? No, we should not, because our stand for *freedom is a most basic part of our religion*; this stand helped get us to this earth, and our reaction to freedom in this life will have eternal consequences. Man has many duties, but he has no excuse that can compensate for his loss of liberty." (CR, Oct. 1966)



# Liberty

Alma 46:18-21

What does Moroni's actions teach us about the importance of liberty when it comes to religious freedom?

# Liberty

Alma 48:1-4

How do you think it is possible for an individual to harden someone else's heart to that extent?



# Liberty

Alma 48:7-10

What actions did Moroni take to prepare the Nephites for war?

# Liberty

Alma 48:11-13,17

Why do you think Mormon concluded that “if all men... were... like unto Moroni... the devil would never have power over the hearts of the children of men”?



## Hugh Nibley

“By all means, let us take Captain Moroni for our model and never forget what he fought for - the poor, outcast and despised; and what he fought against - pride, power, wealth and ambition; or how he fought - as the generous, considerate and magnanimous foe, a leader in every sense.” (Heroes From the Book of Mormon, pg. 130)

# Liberty

Alma 48:14-16

When should members of the Church feel justified in supporting war?

What were the Nephites promised that they would receive if they only went to war when their lives and liberty were threatened?



## Ezra Taft Benson

“The only real peace - the one most of us think about when we use the term - is a peace with freedom. A nation that is not willing, if necessary, to face the rigors of war to defend its real peace-in-freedom is doomed to lose both its freedom and its peace! These are the hard facts of life. We may not like them, but until we live in a far better world than exists today, we must face up to them squarely and courageously.” (An Enemy Hath Done This, pg. 161-2)

Liberty

Alma 49:25-28



# Liberty

Alma 50:18-22

What do you think Mormon wants us to learn from the miraculous victory of the Nephites?

# Liberty

*Alma 51:13,17-21*



Next Week:

August 19–25

Alma 53–63

"Preserved By His Marvelous Power"

