

June 3–9

Mosiah 29–Alma 4

“They Were Steadfast and Immovable”



Nephites Granted Self-Governance

Mosiah 29:12-13

What could be a good result of having a king as long as he is righteous?

Can you name some righteous kings that have established laws and judgements according to the commandments of God?

Mosiah 23:8

If it were possible that ye could always have just men to be your kings it would be well for you to have a king.

Nephites Granted Self-Governance

Mosiah 29:16-18

Can you name anyone who refused to be king even though the people wanted a king?

Why do you think that they refused?

Mosiah 23:13

And now as ye have been delivered by the power of God out of these bonds; yea, even out of the hands of king Noah and his people, and also from the bonds of iniquity, even so I desire that ye should stand fast in this liberty wherewith ye have been made free, and that ye trust no man to be a king over you.

Nephites Granted Self-Governance

Mosiah 29:25-27

What did the people know about the laws that existed while Mosiah was king?

How would they know, and how can we know, when people are in danger of losing their freedom and that the judgments of God are at hand?

Joseph Smith

"The Constitution of the United States is a glorious standard; it is founded in the wisdom of God. It is a heavenly banner; it is to all those who are privileged with the sweets of its liberty, like the cooling shades and refreshing waters of a great rock in a thirsty and weary land. It is like a great tree under whose branches men from every clime can be shielded from the burning rays of the sun...; the Constitution of the United States is true." (History of the Church, 3:304)

Quentin L. Cook

“There has always been an ongoing battle between people of faith and those who would purge religion and God from public life. Many opinion leaders today reject a moral view of the world based on Judeo-Christian values. In their view there is no objective moral order. They believe no preference should be given to moral goals.

“Still, the majority of people aspire to be good and honorable. The Light of Christ... informs their conscience.... This is why many will accept moral values even when founded on religious convictions which they do not personally support....

“In our increasingly unrighteous world, it is essential that values based on religious belief be part of the public discourse.... Religious faith is a store of light, knowledge, and wisdom and benefits society in a dramatic way when adherents engage in moral conduct because they feel accountable to God.” (CR, Oct. 2010)

Nephites Granted Self-Governance

Mosiah 29:37-42

How did the Nephites react to Mosiah's message of self-governance?

How did they feel about king Mosiah granting them an "equal chance" under the law?

How does this help us to understand the importance of liberty and what we must do to gain and retain it?

Nehor and Priestcrafts

2 Nephi 26:29

Priestcrafts are that men preach and set themselves up for a light unto the world, that they may get gain and praise of the world; but they seek not the welfare of Zion.

Dallin H. Oaks

"Priestcraft is the sin committed by the combination of a good act--such as preaching or teaching the gospel--and a bad motive. The act may be good and visible, but the sin is in the motive. On earth, the wrong motive may be known only to the actor, but in heaven it is always known to God."
(Pure in Heart, pg. 16)

Nehor and Priestcrafts

Alma 1:2-6

What principles did Nehor argue should be incorporated into the church?

L. Tom Perry

"Nehor's words appealed to the people, but his doctrine, while popular to many, was incorrect. As we face the many decisions in life, the easy and popular messages of the world will not usually be the right ones to choose, and it will take much courage to choose the right." (CR, Oct. 1993)

Nehor and Priestcrafts

Alma 1:16

Why do you think that someone “who [loves] the vain things of the world” would want priestcrafts to flourish?

Nehor and Priestcrafts

Alma 1:26

How do you think the Church's process of calling members to serve minimizes the problem of priestcrafts?

Contention

Alma 1:19-24

Why did church members began to break the “strict law” against persecutions and began to contend with their adversaries?

How should we react when people teach evil against the things we hold sacred?

Jacob 7:10-12

10) And I said unto him: Believest thou the scriptures?

And he said, Yea.

11) And I said unto him: Then ye do not understand them; for they truly testify of Christ. Behold, I say unto you that none of the prophets have written, nor prophesied, save they have spoken concerning this Christ.

12) And this is not all—it has been made manifest unto me, for I have heard and seen; and it also has been made manifest unto me by the power of the Holy Ghost; wherefore, I know if there should be no atonement made all mankind must be lost.

Alma 4:19

And this he did that he himself might go forth among his people, or among the people of Nephi, that he might preach the word of God unto them, to stir them up in remembrance of their duty, and that he might pull down, by the word of God, all the pride and craftiness and all the contentions which were among his people, seeing no way that he might reclaim them save it were in bearing down in pure testimony against them.

Marvin J Ashton

“We have no time for contention. We only have time to be about our Father’s business. Contend with no man. Conduct yourselves as gentlemen with calmness and conviction....

“There never has been a time when it is more important for us as members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to take a stand, remain firm in our convictions, and conduct ourselves wisely under all circumstances. We must not be manipulated or enraged by those who subtly foster contention over issues of the day.” (CR, April 1978)

Amlici Seeks to be King

Alma 2:1-7

What were the self-governing Nephites able to do to stop Amlici from overthrowing their freedom?

Robert D. Hales

"The general lack of respect for religious viewpoints is quickly devolving into social and political intolerance for religious people and institutions.

"As we face increased pressure to bow to secular standards, forfeit our religious liberties, and compromise our agency, consider what the Book of Mormon teaches about our responsibilities. In the book of Alma we read of Amlici, 'a very cunning' and 'wicked man' who sought to be king over the people and 'deprive them of their rights and privileges,' which 'was alarming to the people of the church.'...

"As disciples of Jesus Christ we have a responsibility to work together with like-minded believers, to raise our voices for what is right." (CR, April 2015)

Prosperity Leads to Pride

Alma 1:27-31

What do you think Mormon means by “the steadiness of the church”?

James E. Faust

"In the first chapter of Alma in the Book of Mormon we find an instructive sequence of events outlining the way by which the Lord's church is established. Beginning with verse 26 we read.... Let us take note of this process:

First, the doctrines are taught

Second, members esteem each other as themselves

Third, they all labor; they work and earn that which they receive

Fourth, they impart of their substance to the less fortunate; they serve one another

Fifth, they discipline their own appetites while at the same time caring appropriately for their own needs

"Now, listen to the declaration of the prophet... 'And now, because of the steadiness of the church they began to be exceeding rich, having abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need' (Alma 1:29).

"This mighty change happened, not because the people were given things, but rather because they were taught and began to help themselves and to care for those who were less fortunate. It was when they gave of themselves in the Lord's way that their circumstances began to improve." (CR, Oct. 1991)

Prosperity Leads to Pride

Alma 4:1-5

What was it that “awakened [them] to a remembrance of their duty” and turn again to the gospel of Christ?

But what always seems to happen when the cause of humility centers on afflictions and destruction?

Henry B. Eyring

"Confronting death and difficulty does return memory and therefore gratitude to righteous people as well as the wicked. But there must be another way to remember, one we can choose. There is. A servant of God named King Benjamin taught it to his people and to us.

"He taught them that none of us is above another because we are all dust, to which God has given life and then sustained it. He described a fact which is true for every human being: unforgiven sin will bring us unending torment. And he described the gift we all have been offered: those whose faith in Jesus Christ leads them to repentance and forgiveness will live in never-ending happiness.

"King Benjamin's teaching had a miraculous effect. Gratitude for what they had led to faith unto repentance. That led to forgiveness. That produced new gratitude." (CR, Oct. 1989)

Prosperity Leads to Pride

Alma 4:6-12

What problems arose because of the pride in the church?

Ezra Taft Benson

"Pride is essentially competitive in nature. We pit our will against God's. The proud make every man their adversary by pitting their intellects, opinions, works, wealth, talents, or any other worldly measuring device against others. God will have a humble people. Either we can choose to be humble or we can be compelled to be humble." (CR, April 1989)

Prosperity Leads to Pride

Alma 4:16-19

Next Week:

June 10–16

Alma 5–7

“Have Ye Experienced this Mighty
Change in Your
Hearts”

