

## June 17–23: Alma 8–12, “Jesus Christ Will Come to Redeem His People”

Recall that Alma was Chief Judge of the land and High Priest of the church. Because of iniquity in the church he stepped down as Chief Judge to be High Priest full time. Starting at Zerahemla he went throughout the land preaching repentance and strengthening the church. He starts teaching in Ammonihah but the people reject him and cast him out. An angel tells him to return and he does. He meets Amulek, a resident of Ammonihah, who joins him in his preaching.

### Light and Knowledge

Alma begins by telling the people of Ammonihah that they are expected to live according to the light and knowledge they have been given

Alma 9:13-15

13 Behold, do ye not remember the words which he spake unto Lehi, saying that: Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper in the land? And again it is said that: Inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall be cut off from the presence of the Lord.

14 Now I would that ye should remember, that inasmuch as the Lamanites have not kept the commandments of God, they have been cut off from the presence of the Lord. Now we see that the word of the Lord has been verified in this thing, and the Lamanites have been cut off from his presence, from the beginning of their transgressions in the land.

15 Nevertheless I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable for them in the day of judgment than for you, if ye remain in your sins, yea, and even more tolerable for them in this life than for you, except ye repent.

If the Nephites do not repent, why will it be more tolerable for the Lamanites “in the day of judgment” and “in this life”?

Because of the knowledge and understanding that the Nephites have been given

D&C 82:3

For of him unto whom much is given much is required; and he who sins against the greater light shall receive the grater condemnation.

Alma innumerate many things that the Lord has given them.

Alma goes on to remind them of all they have been given. As we read ask yourself if, from this description, the Nephites had been given to know the mysteries of God.

Alma 9:20-24

20 Yea, after having been such a highly favored people of the Lord; yea, after having been favored above every other nation, kindred, tongue, or people; after having had all things made known unto them, according to their desires, and their faith, and prayers, of that which has been, and which is, and which is to come;

21 Having been visited by the Spirit of God; having conversed with angels, and having been spoken unto by the voice of the Lord; and having the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and also many gifts, the gift of speaking with tongues, and the gift of preaching, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and the gift of translation;

22 Yea, and after having been delivered of God out of the land of Jerusalem, by the hand of the Lord; having been saved from famine, and from sickness, and all manner of diseases of every kind; and they having waxed strong in battle, that they might not be destroyed; having been brought out of bondage time after time, and having been kept and preserved until now; and they have been prospered until they are rich in all manner of things—

23 And now behold I say unto you, that if this people, who have received so many blessings from the hand of the Lord, should transgress contrary to the light and knowledge which they do have, I say unto you that if this be the case, that if they should fall into transgression, it would be far more tolerable for the Lamanites than for them.

24 For behold, the promises of the Lord are extended to the Lamanites, but they are not unto you if ye transgress; for has not the Lord expressly promised and firmly decreed, that if ye will rebel against him that ye shall utterly be destroyed from off the face of the earth?

What does Alma say that makes it clear they had received great “blessings, . . . light and knowledge” from God?

What will happen if they turn away from God after receiving so much understanding and so many blessings?

(ye shall utterly be destroyed from off the face of the earth)

Alma is ridiculed because God only sent one man. So Amulek testifies as a second witness (2Cor 13:1). He begins by discussing his own reluctant past

Alma 10:5-6

5 Nevertheless, after all this, I never have known much of the ways of the Lord, and his mysteries and marvelous power. I said I never had known much of these things; but behold, I mistake, for I have seen much of his mysteries and his marvelous power; yea, even in the preservation of the lives of this people.

6 Nevertheless, I did harden my heart, for I was called many times and I would not hear; therefore I knew concerning these things, yet I would not know; therefore I went on rebelling against God, in the wickedness of my heart, even until the fourth day of this seventh month, which is in the tenth year of the reign of the judges.

What do you think he meant by the statement, “I knew . . . yet I would not know”?

(I did harden my heart  
for I was called many times and I would not hear  
Therefore I went on rebelling against God)

Admitting to himself that he know that these things were of God would mean that he would have accept God and change his behavior

## Plan of Salvation

Seeing that there was more than one testifying, cunning lawyers next tried to cross them in their words.

(Mormon has some interesting things to say about people who try to manipulate the law for their own self interest which we will discuss if there is time)

One of these lawyers, Zeezrom, tried to get Amulek to contradict himself about the nature of God. He argued that it did not make sense that a God, who loved his children and did so much for them, would not save them all regardless of their sinful state (like Nehor taught).

This gives Amulek the opportunity to explain the plan of salvation

Alma 11:37,40

37 And I say unto you again that he cannot save them in their sins; for I cannot deny his word, and he hath said that no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven; therefore, how can ye be saved, except ye inherit the kingdom of heaven? Therefore, ye cannot be saved in your sins.

40 And he shall come into the world to redeem his people; and he shall take upon him the transgressions of those who believe on his name; and these are they that shall have eternal life, and salvation cometh to none else.

What reason does Amulek give that we cannot be saved in our sins?

(no unclean thing can inherit the kingdom of heaven)

Richard G. Scott

"I testify that of all the necessary steps to repentance, the most critically important is for you to have a conviction that forgiveness comes in and through Jesus Christ. It is essential to know that only on His terms can you be forgiven. You will be helped as you exercise faith in Christ. That means you trust Him and His teachings...

"The fruit of true repentance is God's forgiveness, which opens the door to receive all of the covenants and ordinances provided on this earth and to enjoy the resulting blessings. When repentance is full and one has been cleansed, there comes a new vision of life and its glorious possibilities."  
(CR, Oct. 2004)

Alma 12:14-15

14 For our words will condemn us, yea, all our works will condemn us; we shall not

be found spotless; and our thoughts will also condemn us; and in this awful state we shall not dare to look up to our God; and we would fain be glad if we could command the rocks and the mountains to fall upon us to hide us from his presence. 15 But this cannot be; we must come forth and stand before him in his glory, and in his power, and in his might, majesty, and dominion, and acknowledge to our everlasting shame that all his judgments are just; that he is just in all his works, and that he is merciful unto the children of men, and that he has all power to save every man that believeth on his name and bringeth forth fruit meet for repentance.

What reason does Amulek give that we cannot be saved in our sins?

(in this awful state we shall not dare to look up to our God)

Dallin H. Oaks

“From such teachings we conclude that the Final Judgment is not just an evaluation of a sum total of good and evil acts—what we have done. It is an acknowledgment of the final effect of our acts and thoughts—what we have become. It is not enough for anyone just to go through the motions. The commandments, ordinances, and covenants of the gospel are not a list of deposits required to be made in some heavenly account. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a plan that shows us how to become what our Heavenly Father desires us to become.” (CR, Oct. 2000)

Amulek discusses the resurrection which is a gift to all men regardless of how they have lived their lives

Alma 11:41-45

41 Therefore the wicked remain as though there had been no redemption made, except it be the loosing of the bands of death; for behold, the day cometh that all shall rise from the dead and stand before God, and be judged according to their works.

42 Now, there is a death which is called a temporal death; and the death of Christ shall loose the bands of this temporal death, that all shall be raised from this temporal death.

43 The spirit and the body shall be reunited again in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; and we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt.

44 Now, this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous; and even there shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost; but every thing shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, and shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one Eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

45 Now, behold, I have spoken unto you concerning the death of the mortal body, and also concerning the resurrection of the mortal body. I say unto you that this

mortal body is raised to an immortal body, that is from death, even from the first death unto life, that they can die no more; their spirits uniting with their bodies, never to be divided; thus the whole becoming spiritual and immortal, that they can no more see corruption.

Why is it important for everyone to know that, know matter what they have done in this life, their bodies will rise from the dead and live forever?

Dallin H. Oaks

"I wonder if we fully appreciate the enormous significance of our belief in a literal, universal resurrection. The assurance of immortality is fundamental to our faith....

"The 'lively hope' we are given by the resurrection is our conviction that death is not the conclusion of our identity but merely a necessary step in the destined transition from mortality to immortality. This hope changes the whole perspective of mortal life. The assurance of resurrection and immortality affects how we look on the physical challenges of mortality, how we live our mortal lives, and how we relate to those around us....

"The assurance of immortality also helps us bear the mortal separations involved in the death of our loved ones. Every one of us has wept at a death, grieved through a funeral, or stood in pain at a graveside. I am surely one who has. We should all praise God for the assured resurrection that makes our mortal separations temporary and gives us the hope and strength to carry on." (CR, April 2000)

Zeezrom wants to know more about Amulek's teachings of the resurrection and the judgment. As a prefix to his answer Alma explains that we gain understanding about God's works by degrees, according to our diligence and worthiness.

Alma 12:9-11

9 And now Alma began to expound these things unto him, saying: It is given unto many to know the mysteries of God; nevertheless they are laid under a strict command that they shall not impart only according to the portion of his word which he doth grant unto the children of men, according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him.

10 And therefore, he that will harden his heart, the same receiveth the lesser portion of the word; and he that will not harden his heart, to him is given the greater portion of the word, until it is given unto him to know the mysteries of God until he know them in full.

11 And they that will harden their hearts, to them is given the lesser portion of the word until they know nothing concerning his mysteries; and then they are taken captive by the devil, and led by his will down to destruction. Now this is what is meant by the chains of hell.

What is the condition that determines whether we receive more or less of the

mysteries of God?

(according to the heed and diligence which they give unto him  
he that will not harden his heart... is given the greater portion)

Joseph Fielding Smith

“Men receive assurance and knowledge due to their faithfulness and adherence to the commandments of Jesus Christ. Those who reject their Redeemer and refuse to keep his commandments cannot know and comprehend these eternal truths....

“Naturally the Lord cannot reveal the mysteries of his kingdom to the scoffer, neither can he to the member of the Church who is not faithful. If a man does not exercise faith why should he have the revelations concerning the kingdom of God revealed to him? They cannot understand them because they are ‘fallen’ man, and without the enlightening influence of the Holy Spirit, they are as the Lord expressed it, ‘carnal, sensual and devilish.’”  
(Man, His Origin and Destiny, pg. 358–60)

Angel Abrea

“Don’t harden your heart. Seek to know. In other words, have an intense, consuming desire to know. Give place for a seed to be planted in your heart. And if you do this, do you know what the promise is? Alma tells us, ‘He that will not harden his heart, to him is given ... to know the mysteries of God’ (Alma 12:10).” (CR, April 2000)

Alma adds to the Amulek’s teachings about the judgement that follows this life

Alma 12:12,24

12 And Amulek hath spoken plainly concerning death, and being raised from this mortality to a state of immortality, and being brought before the bar of God, to be judged according to our works.

24 And we see that death comes upon mankind, yea, the death which has been spoken of by Amulek, which is the temporal death; nevertheless there was a space granted unto man in which he might repent; therefore this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state which has been spoken of by us, which is after the resurrection of the dead.

How does this mortal life play an essential role in our eternal existence?

(this life became a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God; a time to prepare for that endless state)

Russell M. Nelson

"We eagerly anticipated the possibility of coming to earth and obtaining a

physical body. Knowingly we wanted the risks of mortality, which would allow the exercise of agency and accountability. 'This life [was to become] a probationary state; a time to prepare to meet God.' But we regarded the returning home as the best part of that long-awaited trip, just as we do now. Before embarking on any journey, we like to have some assurance of a round-trip ticket. Returning from earth to life in our heavenly home requires passage through—and not around—the doors of death. We were born to die, and we die to live. As seedlings of God, we barely blossom on earth; we fully flower in heaven." (CR, April 1992)

But as we have discussed, first we must know the will of God and the plan of God (His mysteries). Then we can prepare to meet God by repenting of our sins and having a receptive heart

Alma 12:28-30

28 And after God had appointed that these things should come unto man, behold, then he saw that it was expedient that man should know concerning the things whereof he had appointed unto them;

29 Therefore he sent angels to converse with them, who caused men to behold of his glory.

30 And they began from that time forth to call on his name; therefore God conversed with men, and made known unto them the plan of redemption, which had been prepared from the foundation of the world; and this he made known unto them according to their faith and repentance and their holy works.

What must we do in order to gain an understanding and testimony Gods plan of salvation?

(made known unto them the plan of redemption...  
according to their faith and repentance and their holy works)

James A. Cullimore

"Possibly one's concern about not having lived well is really in not knowing what his real purpose in life is. Real peace of mind comes from a firm conviction of the plan of salvation as revealed to us of the Lord; that we are the children of God, created in his image; that he is the Father of our spirits; that we lived with him in a glorious spiritual existence before this temporal existence; that this mortal state is probationary; that through death and the resurrection, having lived a worthy life, having complied with the ordinances of the gospel, we might enter again into the presence of God. Peace comes as we know the gospel and live it, as we develop a strong testimony of its divinity, as we are vindicated by the Holy Spirit in our good works." (CR, Oct. 1969)

Alma 12:32-34,37

32 Therefore God gave unto them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption, that they should not do evil, the penalty thereof being a

second death, which was an everlasting death as to things pertaining unto righteousness; for on such the plan of redemption could have no power, for the works of justice could not be destroyed, according to the supreme goodness of God.

33 But God did call on men, in the name of his Son, (this being the plan of redemption which was laid) saying: If ye will repent, and harden not your hearts, then will I have mercy upon you, through mine Only Begotten Son;

34 Therefore, whosoever repenteth, and hardeneth not his heart, he shall have claim on mercy through mine Only Begotten Son, unto a remission of his sins; and these shall enter into my rest.

37 And now, my brethren, seeing we know these things, and they are true, let us repent, and harden not our hearts, that we provoke not the Lord our God to pull down his wrath upon us in these his second commandments which he has given unto us; but let us enter into the rest of God, which is prepared according to his word.

What must we do in order to make this plan effective in our lives and “enter into the rest of God”?

(repent, and harden not our hearts)

Rafael E. Pino

"Latter-day revelations show that our Heavenly Father created a great plan of happiness for all His children, a very special plan so that we can return to live with Him. Understanding this plan of happiness provides us with an eternal perspective and helps us to truly value the commandments, the ordinances, the covenants, and the trials and tribulations.

"One key principle comes from Alma: 'Therefore God gave unto them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption.' (Alma 12:32) It is interesting to note the sequence in the teaching process. Our Heavenly Father first taught Adam and Eve the plan of redemption, and then He gave them commandments.

"This is a great truth. Understanding the plan will help people keep the commandments, make better decisions, and have the right motivation." (CR, April 2015)

### Iniquity Leads to Destruction

Mormon has some very hard things to say against those who manipulate the law to their gain. He tells us ways in which our freedom may be threatened, and what we must do to preserve it.

He explains the intent of those who manipulated the law in an effort to destroy Alma and Amulek

Alma 10:13-15,20



13 Nevertheless, there were some among them who thought to question them, that by their cunning devices they might catch them in their words, that they might find witness against them, that they might deliver them to their judges that they might be judged according to the law, and that they might be slain or cast into prison, according to the crime which they could make appear or witness against them.

14 Now it was those men who sought to destroy them, who were lawyers, who were hired or appointed by the people to administer the law at their times of trials, or at the trials of the crimes of the people before the judges.

15 Now these lawyers were learned in all the arts and cunning of the people; and this was to enable them that they might be skilful in their profession.

20 Now, it was for the sole purpose to get gain, because they received their wages according to their employ, therefore, they did stir up the people to riotings, and all manner of disturbances and wickedness, that they might have more employ, that they might get money according to the suits which were brought before them; therefore they did stir up the people against Alma and Amulek.

Why do you think that these administrators of the law felt threatened by Alma and Amulek?

Priestcrafts

(they might get money according to the suits which were brought before them; therefore they did stir up the people)

What tactics did they use to try to destroy Alma and Amulek

(by their cunning devices they might catch them in their words, that they might find witness against them according to the crime which they could make appear)

How did these wicked men get in the position to administer the law?

(hired or appointed by the people to administer the law at their times of trials)

Which leads Amulek to condemn not just the “administrators of the law,” but the people for appointing them

Alma 10:19

19 Yea, well did Mosiah say, who was our last king, when he was about to deliver up the kingdom, having no one to confer it upon, causing that this people should be governed by their own voices—yea, well did he say that if the time should come that the voice of this people should choose iniquity, that is, if the time should come that this people should fall into transgression, they would be ripe for destruction.

What do you think would be an indication that the voice of the people have chosen iniquity?

(they did stir up the people to riotings, and all manner of disturbances and wickedness, that they might have more employ)

And the one think that is keeping the people from destruction would be done away with

Alma 10:22-23

22 Yea, and I say unto you that if it were not for the prayers of the righteous, who are now in the land, that ye would even now be visited with utter destruction; yet it would not be by flood, as were the people in the days of Noah, but it would be by famine, and by pestilence, and the sword.

23 But it is by the prayers of the righteous that ye are spared; now therefore, if ye will cast out the righteous from among you then will not the Lord stay his hand; but in his fierce anger he will come out against you; then ye shall be smitten by famine, and by pestilence, and by the sword; and the time is soon at hand except ye repent.

Later we will see that this is fulfilled. The people of Ammonihah cast the righteous out from among them and soon after the city is destroyed.

Spencer W. Kimball

"There are many many upright and faithful who live all the commandments and whose lives and prayers keep the world from destruction." (CR, April 1971)

Clearly this is applicable to our day.

Alma 10:26-27

26 For behold, have I testified against your law? Ye do not understand; ye say that I have spoken against your law; but I have not, but I have spoken in favor of your law, to your condemnation.

27 And now behold, I say unto you, that the foundation of the destruction of this people is beginning to be laid by the unrighteousness of your lawyers and your judges.

What were the lawyers and judges doing that could bring about the destruction on the people?