

May 6–12: Mosiah 7–10, “In the Strength of the Lord”

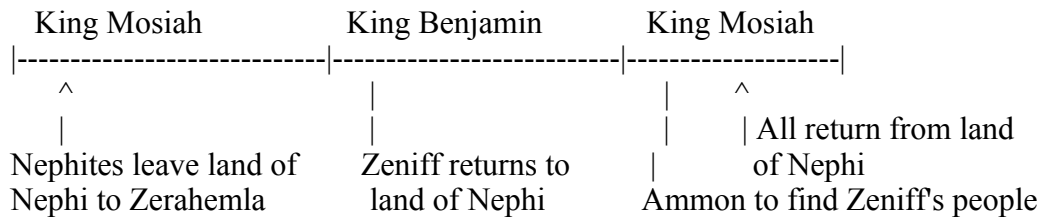
Ammon’s Expedition

Mosiah 7:1-3

1 And now, it came to pass that after king Mosiah had had continual peace for the space of three years, he was desirous to know concerning the people who went up to dwell in the land of Lehi-Nephi, or in the city of Lehi-Nephi; for his people had heard nothing from them from the time they left the land of Zarahemla; therefore, they wearied him with their teasings.

2 And it came to pass that king Mosiah granted that sixteen of their strong men might go up to the land of Lehi-Nephi, to inquire concerning their brethren.

3 And it came to pass that on the morrow they started to go up, having with them one Ammon, he being a strong and mighty man, and a descendant of Zarahemla; and he was also their leader.



- Nephi and the righteous leave Laman & Lemuel and settled the land of Nephi (2Ne 5:5-8)
- During the time of the 1st king Mosiah the Nephites leave land of Nephi and join the Mulekites in Zarahemla. (Omni 1:12)
- During the time of king Benjamin, Zeniff leaves Zarahemla to resettle in the land of Nephi. (Omni 1:27-30)
- Later, under king Limhi, these Nephites later return with Ammon back Zarahemla during the time of the 2nd king Mosiah (Mosh 22:11-13)
- Also Alma and his people return to Zarahemla during the time of the 2nd king Mosiah (Mosh 24:25)

Slow to Remember the Lord

King Mosiah sent a group of men, lead by Ammon, to find out about the group that went with Zeniff to resettle the land of Nephi. At the time Ammon finds them they are being ruled by king Limhi

Limhi summarizes the religious decline of the people under the reign of his predecessor, king Noah

Mosiah 7:25-28

25 For if this people had not fallen into transgression the Lord would not have suffered that this great evil should come upon them. But behold, they would not hearken unto his words; but there arose contentions among them, even so much that

they did shed blood among themselves.

26 And a prophet of the Lord have they slain; yea, a chosen man of God, who told them of their wickedness and abominations, and prophesied of many things which are to come, yea, even the coming of Christ.

27 And because he said unto them that Christ was the God, the Father of all things, and said that he should take upon him the image of man, and it should be the image after which man was created in the beginning; or in other words, he said that man was created after the image of God, and that God should come down among the children of men, and take upon him flesh and blood, and go forth upon the face of the earth—

28 And now, because he said this, they did put him to death; and many more things did they do which brought down the wrath of God upon them. Therefore, who wondereth that they are in bondage, and that they are smitten with sore afflictions?

What is the reason given by Limhi that his people were brought into bondage?

(if this people had not fallen into transgression the Lord would not have suffered that this great evil should come upon them
a prophet of the Lord have they slain... and many more things did they do which brought down the wrath of God upon them)

Next week we will study the wickedness of king Noah and his people, the great teachings of the prophet Abinidi, and the conversion of Alma

King Limhi quotes scriptures from the Brass Plates that explains why their actions have brought on such suffering

Mosiah 7:29-33

29 For behold, the Lord hath said: I will not succor my people in the day of their transgression; but I will hedge up their ways that they prosper not; and their doings shall be as a stumbling block before them.

30 And again, he saith: If my people shall sow filthiness they shall reap the chaff thereof in the whirlwind; and the effect thereof is poison.

31 And again he saith: If my people shall sow filthiness they shall reap the east wind, which bringeth immediate destruction.

32 And now, behold, the promise of the Lord is fulfilled, and ye are smitten and afflicted.

33 But if ye will turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, and put your trust in him, and serve him with all diligence of mind, if ye do this, he will, according to his own will and pleasure, deliver you out of bondage.

Similar passages are found in the Old Testament

Hosea 2:6

Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths.

Ezekiel 3:20

Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling block before him, he shall die... in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered...

Hosea 8:7

For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

Psalms 1:4

The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.

What do we learn from these passages from the Brass Plates and the Old Testament about how the Lord responds to those who knowingly turn away from Him?

(I will not succor my people in the day of their transgression
If my people shall sow filthiness they shall reap the... whirlwind... east wind)

What does the Lord promise the people of Limhi if they will again “turn to [Him] with full purpose of heart”?

(if ye will turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart
he will, according to his own will and pleasure, deliver you out of bondage)

What do you think is meant by “according to his own will and pleasure”?

Joseph Fielding Smith

“No person can begin too early to serve the Lord.... They who refuse to seek the Lord early are forsaken in the hour of their trouble. Read the history of Israel, of the Nephites. How often when they rebelled were they punished! How slow was the Lord to hear their cries when trouble came upon them because of their sins!” (CR, April 1969)

And the people do repent and the Lord does show His compassion towards them and delivered them from bondage, as we shall see in future reading assignments

Chapters 9 and 10 are from Zeniff's own record.

Mosiah 9:3

3 And yet, I being over-zealous to inherit the land of our fathers, collected as many as were desirous to go up to possess the land, and started again on our journey into the wilderness to go up to the land; but we were smitten with famine and sore afflictions; for we were slow to remember the Lord our God.

What do we learn about the spiritual state of Ziniff and his people while they were seeking the land of Nephi?

(I being over-zealous to inherit the land we were smitten with famine and sore afflictions; for we were slow to remember the Lord our God)

What do you think Ziniff means when he says his people were “slow to remember the Lord”?

D&C 101:7-8

7) They were slow to hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God therefore, the Lord their God is slow to hearken unto their prayers, to answer them in the day of their trouble.

8) In the day of their peace they esteemed lightly my counsel; but, in the day of their trouble, of necessity they feel after me.

Lets read what happens when Zeniff and his people arrive in the land of Nephi.

Mosiah 9:6-10

6 And I went in unto the king, and he covenanted with me that I might possess the land of Lehi-Nephi, and the land of Shilom.

7 And he also commanded that his people should depart out of the land, and I and my people went into the land that we might possess it.

8 And we began to build buildings, and to repair the walls of the city, yea, even the walls of the city of Lehi-Nephi, and the city of Shilom.

9 And we began to till the ground, yea, even with all manner of seeds, with seeds of corn, and of wheat, and of barley, and with neas, and with sheum, and with seeds of all manner of fruits; and we did begin to multiply and prosper in the land.

10 Now it was the cunning and the craftiness of king Laman, to bring my people into bondage, that he yielded up the land that we might possess it.

What was king Laman’s objective in letting them possess the land?

(enslave them and confiscate much of their goods once they became productive)

Perhaps if they had been living closer to the Lord they would have comprehended the intent of the Lamanites

After 13 years the Lamanites start to exercise their plan try to bring the people of Zefiff into bondage.

Mosiah 9:14-19

14 For, in the thirteenth year of my reign in the land of Nephi, away on the south of the land of Shilom, when my people were watering and feeding their flocks, and tilling their lands, a numerous host of Lamanites came upon them and began to slay

them, and to take off their flocks, and the corn of their fields.

15 Yea, and it came to pass that they fled, all that were not overtaken, even into the city of Nephi, and did call upon me for protection.

16 And it came to pass that I did arm them with bows, and with arrows, with swords, and with cimeters, and with clubs, and with slings, and with all manner of weapons which we could invent, and I and my people did go forth against the Lamanites to battle.

17 Yea, in the strength of the Lord did we go forth to battle against the Lamanites; for I and my people did cry mightily to the Lord that he would deliver us out of the hands of our enemies, for we were awakened to a remembrance of the deliverance of our fathers.

18 And God did hear our cries and did answer our prayers; and we did go forth in his might; yea, we did go forth against the Lamanites, and in one day and a night we did slay three thousand and forty-three; we did slay them even until we had driven them out of our land.

19 And I, myself, with mine own hands, did help to bury their dead. And behold, to our great sorrow and lamentation, two hundred and seventy-nine of our brethren were slain.

What information is given that helps us understand the spiritual state of Ziniff and his people while settling the land of Shilom?

(I and my people did cry mightily to the Lord that he would deliver us out of the hands of our enemies
God did hear our cries and did answer our prayers; and we did go forth in his might)

The fact that the Lord was quick to hear their cries would indicate that they had kept him in remembrance, even during their time of peace and prosperity

D&C 88:63

Draw near unto me and I will draw near unto you; seek me diligently and ye shall find me; ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

What helped them have faith that the Lord would deliver them from bondage?

(we were awakened to a remembrance of the deliverance of our fathers)

Ten years later the Lamanites come again. Zeniff had taken this time to build fortifications, prepare his people for war, and prepare them spiritually

Mosiah 10:10,19-21

10 And it came to pass that we did go up to battle against the Lamanites; and I, even I, in my old age, did go up to battle against the Lamanites. And it came to pass that we did go up in the strength of the Lord to battle.

19 And now I, Zeniff, after having told all these things unto my people concerning the Lamanites, I did stimulate them to go to battle with their might, putting their trust in the Lord; therefore, we did contend with them, face to face.

20 And it came to pass that we did drive them again out of our land; and we slew them with a great slaughter, even so many that we did not number them.

21 And it came to pass that we returned again to our own land, and my people again began to tend their flocks, and to till their ground.

Why do you think that the people on Zeniff felt confident that they would receive “the strength of the Lord [in] battle”?

(we did go up in the strength of the Lord to battle putting their trust in the Lord)

Zeniff gives us some good insight insight into the mind and attitude of the Lamanites

Mosiah 10:11-18

11 Now, the Lamanites knew nothing concerning the Lord, nor the strength of the Lord, therefore they depended upon their own strength. Yet they were a strong people, as to the strength of men.

12 They were a wild, and ferocious, and a blood-thirsty people, believing in the tradition of their fathers, which is this—Believing that they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem because of the iniquities of their fathers, and that they were wronged in the wilderness by their brethren, and they were also wronged while crossing the sea;

17 And thus they have taught their children that they should hate them, and that they should murder them, and that they should rob and plunder them, and do all they could to destroy them; therefore they have an eternal hatred towards the children of Nephi.

What advantage did the people of Zeniff have over the Lamanites because they “[put] their trust in the Lord”?

(the Lamanites... depended upon their own strength)

Seer

Ammon explains to King Limhi what a seer is when Limhi asks him if he knows of anyone who can translate the 24 gold plates they found (record of Ether)

Mosiah 8:13-18

13 Now Ammon said unto him: I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records; for he has wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date; and it is a gift from God. And the things are called interpreters, and no man can look in them except he be commanded, lest he should look for that he ought not and he should perish. And whosoever is commanded to

look in them, the same is called seer.

14 And behold, the king of the people who are in the land of Zarahemla is the man that is commanded to do these things, and who has this high gift from God.

15 And the king said that a seer is greater than a prophet.

16 And Ammon said that a seer is a revelator and a prophet also; and a gift which is greater can no man have, except he should possess the power of God, which no man can; yet a man may have great power given him from God.

17 But a seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by them shall all things be revealed, or, rather, shall secret things be made manifest, and hidden things shall come to light, and things which are not known shall be made known by them, and also things shall be made known by them which otherwise could not be known.

18 Thus God has provided a means that man, through faith, might work mighty miracles; therefore he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings.

What do you think Ammon meant when he said that “a seer is greater than a prophet”?

Theodore M. Burton

"Now to what can a man turn? In what can he place reliance? In whom can we put our confidence, our trust? Now remember, Ammon said a seer is greater than a prophet....

"Thus one can trust a seer because a seer may see the heavens open. He may see the great vision of God working in all his majesty. He may see the fulness of truth as it is revealed to him by God who makes no mistakes. The evidence is clear, therefore, and the interpretation is clear. The seer can bear personal testimony, not based on books, not based on scholarship, not based on tradition, but based on the evidence of things that God himself can reveal to him in an actual experience with Deity. He may receive a revelation from God by actually seeing and hearing and being instructed in the real truth."
(CR, Oct. 1961)