

8/9/20

BofM #31

Alma 43-52

Stand Fast in the Faith of Christ

GT

Ch 43-44

Zoramites become Lamanites → They were angry at the people of Ammon for sheltering their exiles. When they "leave" the Nephites, it is only to stir up their enemies and come back and conquer them.

v. 8 the design of ~~the~~ Zerahemna was to gain power over the Nephites.

- 2 attitudes: Lamanites in general → We are owed something because of an ancient grievance
- Nephite dissenters → leaves them susceptible to manipulation
- want power over other Nephites
- see Lamanites as an easily exploitable resource

Mormon/Alma ~~teaches~~ wants to teach a few concepts:

- 1) importance of resisting evil, no matter the cost, even unto violence
- 2) justification for wars of self-defense
- 3) superiority of the righteousness of God, symbolized by armor of Nephites, greater resolve of Nephites
- 4) even justified conflict doesn't preclude mercy

Nephites, like the Israelites, placed great importance on symbols:

44:14 → even as this scalp has fallen to the earth, so shall you fall to the earth  
→ give garments example in ch 46

Ch 45 Helaman's record - battlefield account. Helaman I is a prophet/general prophecy of Alma → general apostasy 400 yrs after Christ's res. & appearance

v. 16 Curse of the land → destruction unto every people who do wickedly when fully ripe for example of fully ripe, see Helaman & 3rd Nephi

v. 17 Blessing upon the church & all who should stand steadfast in the faith from that time forth - i.e. still in effect

Alma translated?

Ch 46

Amalikhiah ↔ Moroni

Moroni's story is told to illustrate what must be done to conquer Satan, and

Mormon loved the story so much, this is the man he chose to name his son after "central" figure in BofM (in a chiasmic sense)?

Amalikhiah gains followers by promising them bloodshed and power

Moroni gains followers by offering them a chance to defend their **freedom**

★ read Note v. 12

Title of liberty is on a rent clock →

God → religion  
 freedom → peace  
 wives → children

in each case, the existence of the latter depends on loyalty to the former

the BofM. Freedom is not man kind's natural state. ~~the~~ Society is. Power increases safety. Freedom must be fought for

Mosiah II and Moroni are the two great expanders of freedom in

v. 21, 22

The title of liberty is on a rent cloak; when others flock to it, they make a covenant by also tending their garments. Did Moroni make a similar covenant and make that known? (i.e. were they following his example?) in any case, they do him one better → they covenant that if they fell into <sup>transgression</sup>

- 1) ~~The~~ The Lord would rend them even as they rent their garments (like Moroni did)
- 2) They would be cast at the feet of their enemies to be trodden underfoot

v. 23-24

They are treating their garments like the Lord should treat them, based on their faithfulness. This kind of token has a long tradition among Nephites and Israelites. "I invite the Lord to treat me as I treat this garment"

- ★ read from scripture tag "Garment"
- read from scripture note "Covenant Symbols"

Amalikhiah's forces are defeated, and Amalikhiah dissents to the Lamanites

### Ch 47

Amalikhiah and Lehonti - "The Price of Discipleship" Elder Hales Oct 2008  
Amalikhiah's lie about the King's Death - so easy to see how it doesn't make sense - why would the servants wait to kill the king?

### Ch 48-49

Amalikhiah's attack against Ammonihah and Noah.

- ★ v. 17 if all men could be like Moroni
- Fortified, the attacks of evil foreseen and countered
- First, the Nephites had innovated armor, now they innovated fortifications against siege

### Ch 50

- years of peace and blessedness  
Teancum stops the dissenters from Morianton  
Nephihah dies and is succeeded by his son Pahoran.  
- we learn Nephihah was Alma's first choice for the records

### Ch 51

Moroni called to put down insurrection of king-men; meanwhile, the Lamanites gain possession of many of their fortified cities  
Teancum meets Amalikhiah on the field of battle, and then slays him in his tent

### Ch 52

Happy New Year! The Lamanites wake up and find Amalikhiah dead, and flee.  
The forces of Moroni gain a victory in Mulek

### Ch 53 - oops next lesson

Dissensions again weaken the Nephite defenses, and the Ammonites are about to break their oath when Helaman and his brethren convince them not to.

But they have sons who never covenanted, and Helaman takes 2000 of

- ★ them and forges an army
- ★ stripping ≠ strapping