

Selections from Mormon

© 2018 The Authors

Permission is granted to do anything with this work for any purpose with or without fee.

This work is provided as-is without any express or implied warranty. In no event is the author liable for any damages arising from this work.

An abridgment of the Book of Mormon. Verse references such as ^{1:9} indicate the original source of the text, but don't imply a full quotation.

Jacob

^{1:2} Nephi gave me, Jacob, a commandment that I should write a few of the things which I consider to be most precious. ⁴ And if there were preaching which was sacred, or revelation which was great, or prophesying, that I should write the heads of them.

^{1:15} And now the people began to grow hard in their hearts, and indulge themselves somewhat in wicked practices, such as desiring many wives and concubines. ¹⁶ Yea, and they also began to search much gold and silver, and began to be lifted up somewhat in pride. ¹⁷ Wherefore I, Jacob, gave unto them these words.

^{2:3} I this day am weighed down with much more desire and anxiety for the welfare of your souls than I have hitherto been. ⁴ For behold, as yet, ye have been obedient unto the word of God, which I have given unto you. ⁵ But behold, hearken ye unto me, and know that I can tell that ye are beginning to labor in sin, which sin appeareth very abominable unto me, yea, and abominable unto God. ⁷ And also it grieveth me that I must use so much boldness of speech concerning you, before your wives and your children, many of whose feelings are exceedingly tender and chaste and delicate.

^{2:12} Many of you have begun to search for gold, and for silver, and for all manner of precious ores, in the which this land

doth abound most plentifully. ¹³ And the hand of providence hath smiled upon you most pleasingly, that you have obtained many riches; and because some of you have obtained more abundantly than that of your brethren ye are lifted up in the pride of your hearts because of the costliness of your apparel, and persecute your brethren because ye suppose that ye are better than they. ¹⁴ And now, my brethren, do ye suppose that God justifieth you in this thing? Behold, I say unto you, Nay. But he condemneth you, and if ye persist in these things his judgments must speedily come unto you.

^{2:17} Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you. ¹⁸ But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God. ¹⁹ And after ye have obtained a hope in Christ ye shall obtain riches, if ye seek them; and ye will seek them for the intent to do good — to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive, and administer relief to the sick and the afflicted.

^{2:20} And now, my brethren, I have spoken unto you concerning pride; and those of you which have afflicted your neighbor, and persecuted him because ye were proud in your hearts of the things which God hath given you, what say ye of it? ²¹ Do ye not suppose that such things are abominable unto him who created all flesh? And

the one being is as precious in his sight as the other.

^{2:22} And now I make an end of speaking unto you concerning this pride. And I must speak unto you concerning a grosser crime. ²³ For behold, thus saith God: “This people begin to wax in iniquity; they understand not the scriptures, for they seek to excuse themselves in committing whoredoms, because of the things which were written concerning David, and Solomon his son. ²⁴ Behold, David and Solomon truly had many wives and concubines, which thing was abominable before me.”

^{2:27} Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: “For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none; ²⁸ For I, the Lord God, delight in the chastity of women. And whoredoms are an abomination before me. ³⁰ For if I will raise up seed unto me, I will command my people; otherwise they shall hearken unto these things.”

^{2:31} “For behold, I, the Lord, have seen the sorrow, and heard the mourning of the daughters of my people because of the wickedness and abominations of their husbands. ³² And I will not suffer that the cries of the fair daughters of this people shall come up unto me against the men of my people, ³³ for they shall not commit whoredoms, like unto them of old.”

^{2:35} Ye have broken the hearts of your tender wives, and lost the confidence of your children, because of your bad examples before them; and the sobbings of their hearts ascend up to God against you.

^{3:1} But behold, I, Jacob, would speak unto you that are pure in heart. Look

unto God with firmness of mind, and pray unto him with exceeding faith, and he will console you in your afflictions.

^{4:8} Behold, great and marvelous are the works of God. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. And no man knoweth of his ways save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God. ¹⁰ Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from his hand. For behold, ye yourselves know that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy, over all his works.

^{6:12} O be wise; what can I say more? ¹³ Finally, I bid you farewell, until I shall meet you before the pleasing bar of God. Amen. ^{7:27} And I, Jacob, said unto my son Enos, “Take these plates.”

Enos

^{1:1} I, Enos, knowing my father that he was a just man — for he taught me in his language, and also in the nurture and admonition of the Lord — ³ I went to hunt beasts in the forests; and the words which I had often heard my father speak concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep into my heart.

^{1:4} My soul hungered; and I kneeled down before my Maker, and I cried unto him in mighty prayer and supplication for mine own soul; ⁵ And there came a voice unto me, saying: “Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed.”

^{1:9} Now, it came to pass that when I had heard these words I began to feel a desire for the welfare of my people; wherefore, I did pour out my whole soul unto God for them. ¹⁹ And now it came to pass that I, Enos, went about among my people, prophesying of things to come, and testifying of the things which I had heard and seen.

^{1:26} I have declared it in all my days, and have rejoiced in it above that of the world. ²⁷ And I soon go to the place of my rest, which is with my Redeemer. And he will say unto me, "Come unto me, ye blessed, there is a place prepared for you in the mansions of my Father." Amen.

Jarom

^{1:9} The word of the Lord was verified, which he spake unto our fathers, saying that: "Inasmuch as ye will keep my commandments ye shall prosper in the land."

Omni

^{1:5} The more wicked part of my people were destroyed. ⁶ For God would not suffer, after he had led them out of the land of Jerusalem and kept and preserved them from falling into the hands of their enemies, yea, he would not suffer that the words should not be verified, which he spake unto our fathers, saying that: "Inasmuch as ye will not keep my commandments ye shall not prosper in the land." ⁷ Wherefore, God did visit them in great judgment; nevertheless, he did spare the

righteous that they should not perish, but did deliver them out of the hands of their enemies.

^{1:25} There is nothing which is good save it comes from God; and that which is evil cometh from the devil. ²⁶ Offer your whole souls as an offering unto Christ, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; and as God liveth ye will be saved.

Mosiah

^{1:1} King Benjamin had continual peace all the remainder of his days.

^{1:2} He had three sons, and he caused that they should be taught in all the language of his fathers, that thereby they might become men of understanding; and that they might know concerning the prophecies which had been spoken by the mouths of their fathers, which were delivered them by the hand of God.

^{1:3} And he also taught them concerning the records which were engraven on the plates, saying: "My sons, ⁴ it were not possible that our father, Lehi, could have remembered all these things, except it were for the help of these plates; therefore he could read these engravings, and teach them to his children, that thereby they could teach them to their children, even down to this present time."

^{1:9} And it came to pass that king Benjamin waxed old, and he saw that he must very soon go the way of all the earth. ¹⁰ Therefore, he had his son Mosiah brought before him, saying: "My son, I

would that ye should make a proclamation throughout all this land that thereby the people may be gathered together.”

^{1:18} And Mosiah went and did as his father had commanded him, and proclaimed unto all the people that thereby they might gather themselves together to hear the words which his father should speak unto them.

^{2:5} When they arrived, they pitched their tents round about, every man according to his family, consisting of his wife, and his sons, and his daughters, and their sons, and their daughters, from the eldest down to the youngest, every family being separate one from another. ⁶ And they pitched their tents that they might remain in their tents and hear the words which king Benjamin should speak unto them.

^{2:8} He began to speak to his people, and they could not all hear his words because of the greatness of the multitude; therefore he caused that the words which he spake should be written and sent forth among those that were not under the sound of his voice, that they might also receive his words.

^{2:9} And these are the words which he spake, saying: My brethren, I have not commanded you to come up hither to trifle with the words which I shall speak. ¹⁰ I have not commanded you to come up hither that ye should fear me, or that ye should think that I of myself am more than a mortal man. ¹¹ But I am like as yourselves, subject to all manner of infirmities in body and mind; yet I have been chosen by this people, and was suffered by the hand of God that I should be a king over this peo-

ple; to serve you with all the might, mind and strength which God hath granted unto me.

^{2:12} I have been suffered to spend my days in your service, even up to this time, and have not sought gold nor silver nor any manner of riches of you. ¹³ Neither have I suffered that ye should be confined in dungeons, nor that ye should make slaves one of another, nor that ye should murder, or plunder, or steal, or commit adultery. ¹⁴ And even I, myself, have labored with mine own hands that I might serve you, and that ye should not be laden with taxes.

^{2:15} Yet, my brethren, I have not done these things that I might boast, ¹⁶ for I have only been in the service of God. ¹⁷ I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.

^{2:18} If I, whom ye call your king, do labor to serve you, then ought not ye to labor to serve one another? ¹⁹ If I, whom ye call your king, who has spent his days in your service, do merit any thanks from you, O how you ought to thank your heavenly King!

^{2:21} If ye should serve him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants. ²³ In the first place, he hath created you, and granted unto you your lives, for which ye are indebted unto him. ²⁴ And secondly, he doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you; for which if ye do, he doth immediately bless you; and therefore he hath paid you. And ye are still indebted unto him, and are, and will be, forever and ever; therefore,

of what have ye to boast?

^{2:41} Moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual; and if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness.

^{3:1} I have somewhat more to speak unto you. ⁵ For behold, the time cometh, and is not far distant, that God shall come down from heaven among the children of men, and shall go forth amongst men, working mighty miracles, such as healing the sick, raising the dead, causing the lame to walk, the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and curing all manner of diseases. ⁶ And he shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits which dwell in the hearts of the children of men.

^{3:7} And lo, he shall suffer temptations, and pain of body, hunger, thirst, and fatigue, even more than man can suffer, except it be unto death. ⁸ And he shall be called Jesus Christ, and his mother shall be called Mary.

^{3:9} Even after all this they shall say that he hath a devil, and shall scourge him, and shall crucify him. ¹⁰ And he shall rise the third day from the dead. ¹¹ For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have died not knowing the will of God concerning them, or who have ignorantly sinned.

^{3:19} The natural man is an enemy to God, and will be, forever and ever, un-

less he putteth off the natural man and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which God seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

^{4:9} Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth; believe that he has all wisdom; believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which God can comprehend. ¹⁰ And again, believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you; and now, if you believe all these things see that ye do them.

^{4:11} I would that ye should remember, and always retain in remembrance, the greatness of God, and your own nothingness, and his goodness and long-suffering towards you, unworthy creatures, and humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of God daily.

4 Nephi

^{1:2} The people were all converted unto God, and there were no contentions and disputations among them, and every man did deal justly one with another. ³ And they had all things common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift, ⁴ and there still continued to be peace in the land.

^{1:15} There was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. ¹⁶ There

were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness. Surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God.

^{1:24} When one hundred sixty-five years had passed, there began to be among them those who were lifted up in pride, such as the wearing of costly apparel, and all manner of fine pearls, and of the fine things of the world. ²⁵ From that time forth, they did have their goods and their substance no more common among them.

^{1:26} They began to be divided into classes; and they began to build up churches unto themselves to get gain. ³⁴ Thus they did dwindle in unbelief and wickedness, from year to year.

^{1:41} They did build up churches unto themselves, and adorn them with all manner of precious things. ⁴³ And also they began to be proud in their hearts, because of their exceeding riches, and become vain.

^{1:45} When ninety-nine years had passed, the people had become exceedingly wicked.

Mormon

^{1:1} I, Mormon, make a record of the things which I have both seen and heard.

^{1:2} Ammaron came unto me, (I being about ten years of age, and I began to be learned somewhat after the manner of the learning of my people) and Ammaron said unto me: "I perceive that thou art a sober

child, and art quick to observe; ³ Therefore, when ye are about twenty-four years old go to the place where I have deposited all the sacred engravings concerning this people. ⁴ And behold, ye shall take the engravings unto yourself; and ye shall engrave all the things that ye have observed concerning this people."

^{1:6} I, being eleven years old, was carried by my father into the land southward. ⁸ In this year there began to be a war in the land.

^{2:2} In my sixteenth year I did go forth at the head of an army.

^{2:10} The people began to repent of their iniquity. ¹² When I saw their lamentation and their mourning and their sorrow before God, my heart did begin to rejoice within me, knowing the mercies and the long-suffering of God, therefore supposing that he would be merciful unto them that they would again become a righteous people. ¹³ But behold my joy was vain, for their sorrowing was not unto repentance, because of the goodness of God; but it was rather the sorrowing of the damned, because God would not always suffer them to take happiness in sin.

^{2:18} Behold, a continual scene of wickedness and abominations has been before mine eyes ever since I have been sufficient to behold the ways of man. ¹⁹ And wo is me because of their wickedness; for my heart has been filled with sorrow because of their wickedness, all my days.

^{3:8} Our enemies did come down again to battle. And we did beat them again,

and did slay a great number of them. ⁹The people began to boast in their own strength, and began to swear before the heavens that they would avenge themselves of the blood of their brethren who had been slain by their enemies. ¹⁰They did swear by the heavens that they would go up to battle against their enemies, and would cut them off from the face of the land.

^{3:11} I did utterly refuse from this time forth to be a leader of this people, because of their wickedness and abomination. ¹²Notwithstanding their wickedness I had led them many times to battle, and had loved them, according to the love of God which was in me, with all my heart; nevertheless, it was without faith, because of the hardness of their hearts. ¹³And thrice have I delivered them out of the hands of their enemies, and they have repented not of their sins.

^{3:16} I utterly refused to go up against mine enemies; and I did stand as an idle witness to manifest unto the world the things which I saw and heard.

^{4:5} Behold, the judgments of God will overtake the wicked; and it is by the wicked that the wicked are punished; for it is the wicked that stir up the hearts of men unto bloodshed.

^{4:9} And now there had been thousands slain on both sides. ¹¹And it is impossible for the tongue to describe, or for man to write a perfect description of the horrible scene of the blood and carnage which was among the people.

^{4:23} And now, seeing that our enemies were about to overthrow the land, there-

fore I did take up all the records which Ammaron had hid.

^{6:6} Behold I, Mormon, began to be old; and knowing it to be the last struggle of my people, and having been commanded of God that I should not suffer the records which had been handed down by our fathers, which were sacred, to fall into the hands of our enemies (for they would destroy them) therefore I hid in a hill all the records which had been entrusted to me, save it were these few which I gave unto my son Moroni.

^{8:1} Behold I, Moroni, do finish the record of my father, Mormon. I have but few things to write, which things I have been commanded by my father. ²After the great and tremendous battle, behold, those who had escaped into the country southward were hunted by our enemies, until they were all destroyed. ³And my father also was killed by them, and I even remain alone to write the sad tale of the destruction of my people. And whether they will slay me, I know not. ⁵My father hath been slain in battle, and all my kinsfolk, and I have not friends nor whither to go; and how long God will suffer that I may live I know not.

^{8:12} Whoso receiveth this record, and shall not condemn it because of the imperfections which are in it, the same shall know of greater things than these. ¹⁹For behold, the same that judgeth rashly shall be judged rashly again; for according to his works shall his wages be. ²⁰Behold what the scripture says, "Man shall not smite, neither shall he judge; for judgment is mine, saith God, and vengeance is mine

also, and I will repay.”

^{8:22} For the eternal purposes of God shall roll on, until all his promises shall be fulfilled.

^{8:31} There shall be many who will say, “Do this, or do that, and it mattereth not, for God will uphold such at the last day.”

But wo unto such for they are in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity.

³² Yea, there shall be churches built up that shall say, “Come unto me, and for your money you shall be forgiven of your sins.” ³³ O ye wicked and perverse and stiffnecked people.

^{8:36} And I know that ye do walk in the pride of your hearts, unto the wearing of very fine apparel, unto envying, and strifes, and malice, and persecutions, and all manner of iniquities. ³⁷ For behold, ye do love money, and your substance, and your fine apparel, and the adorning of your churches, more than ye love the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted.

^{8:39} Why do ye adorn yourselves with that which hath no life, and yet suffer the hungry, and the needy, and the naked, and the sick and the afflicted to pass by you, and notice them not?

^{9:27} Doubt not, but be believing, and come unto God with all your heart, and work out your own salvation with fear and trembling before him. ²⁸ Be wise in the days of your probation; strip yourselves of all uncleanness; ask not, that ye may consume it on your lusts, but ask with a firmness unshaken, that ye will yield to no temptation, but that ye will serve the true and living God.

^{9:31} Condemn me not because of mine imperfection, neither my father, because of his imperfection, neither them who have written before him; but rather give thanks unto God that he hath made manifest unto you our imperfections, that ye may learn to be more wise than we have been.

Moroni

^{7:1} I, Moroni, write a few of the words of my father Mormon, for after this manner did he speak unto the people.

^{7:2} I, Mormon, speak unto you, my beloved brethren. ⁵ I remember the word of God, which saith by their works ye shall know them; for if their works be good, then they are good also. ⁶ For behold, God hath said, a man being evil cannot do that which is good; for if he offereth a gift, or prayeth unto God, except he shall do it with real intent it profiteth him nothing. ⁷ For behold, it is not counted unto him for righteousness. ⁸ For behold, if a man being evil giveth a gift, he doeth it grudgingly; wherefore it is counted unto him the same as if he had retained the gift; wherefore he is counted evil before God.

^{7:9} Likewise also is it counted evil unto a man, if he shall pray and not with real intent of heart; yea, and it profiteth him nothing, for God receiveth none such. ¹⁰ Wherefore, a man being evil cannot do that which is good. ¹¹ For behold, a bitter fountain cannot bring forth good water; neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water.

^{7:13} Behold, that which is of God inviteth and enticeth to do good continually; wherefore, every thing which inviteth and enticeth to do good, and to love God, and to serve him, is inspired of God. ¹⁴ Wherefore, take heed that ye do not judge that which is evil to be of God, or that which is good and of God to be of the devil. ¹⁸ See that ye do not judge wrongfully; for with that same judgment which ye judge ye shall also be judged.

^{7:23} God declared unto prophets that Christ should come. ²⁴ And behold, there were divers ways that he did manifest things unto the children of men, which were good.

^{7:44} If a man have not charity he is nothing; wherefore he must needs have charity. ⁴⁵ And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.

^{7:46} Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity, ye are nothing, for charity never faileth. Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail, ⁴⁷ but charity endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

^{10:1} Now I, Moroni, write somewhat as seemeth me good. ³ Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read these things, that ye would remember how merciful God hath been unto the children of

men, and ponder it in your hearts.

^{10:8} I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who worketh all in all; and they are given to profit men. ⁹ For behold, to one is given, that he may teach the word of wisdom; ¹⁰ And to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge. ¹¹ And to another, exceedingly great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing; ¹² And to another, that he may work mighty miracles; ¹³ And to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; ¹⁴ And to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; ¹⁵ And to another, all kinds of tongues; ¹⁶ And to another, the interpretation of languages. ¹⁷ And all these gifts come unto every man severally, according as he will.

^{10:21} Except ye have charity ye can in nowise be saved; neither can ye be saved if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope. ²² And if ye have no hope ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity.

^{10:34} Now I bid unto all, farewell. I soon go to rest in the paradise of God.