

Selections from Mormon

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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 God: “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, God, 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 God, 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 God — 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 God 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.

Zeniff

Taken from chapters 9-24 of the Book of Mosiah.

^{9:1} I, Zeniff, had a knowledge of the land of our fathers’ first inheritance. ³ Being over-zealous to inherit the land of our fathers, I collected as many as were desirous to go up to possess the land, and started on our journey into the wilderness to go up to the land.
⁵ I went into the city, in unto the king, that I might

know if I might go in with my people and possess the land in peace. ⁶ He covenanted with me that I might possess the land.

^{9:8} We began to build buildings, and to repair the walls of the city, ⁹ and to till the ground; and we did begin to multiply and prosper in the land.

^{11:1} And now Zeniff conferred the kingdom upon Noah, one of his sons; therefore Noah began to reign in his stead; and he did not walk in the ways of his father. ² For behold, he did not keep the commandments of God, but he did walk after the desires of his own heart. And he had many wives and concubines. ³ And he laid a tax of one fifth part of all the people possessed. ⁴ And all this did he take to support himself, and his wives and his concubines; and also his priests, and their wives and their concubines; thus he had changed the affairs of the kingdom.

^{11:20} There was a man whose name was Abinadi; and he went forth among the people, and began to prophesy, saying: "Thus saith God, 'Wo be unto this people, for I have seen their abominations, and their wickedness, and their whoredoms. ²¹ And except they repent behold, I will deliver them into the hands of their enemies; yea, and they shall be brought into bondage.'"

^{11:27} Now when king Noah had heard of the words which Abinadi had spoken unto the people, he was wroth; and he said: "Who is Abinadi, that I and my people should be judged of him, or who is God, that

shall bring upon my people such great affliction? ²⁸ I command you to bring Abinadi hither, that I may slay him.” ²⁹ The people sought from that time forward to take him.

^{12:1} After the space of two years Abinadi came among the people in disguise, and they knew him not, and he began to prophesy among them, saying, ² “Thus saith God, ‘It shall come to pass that this generation, because of their iniquities, shall be brought into bondage.’”

^{12:9} They were angry with him; and they took him and carried him bound before the king. ¹⁷ King Noah caused that Abinadi should be cast into prison, and he commanded that the priests should gather themselves together. ¹⁹ And the priests began to question Abinadi, that they might cross him, but he answered them boldly, and withstood all their questions, to their astonishment.

^{12:25} And now Abinadi said unto them, ²⁷ “What teach ye this people?”

^{12:28} And they said: “We teach the law of Moses.”

^{12:29} He said unto them: “If ye teach the law of Moses why do ye not keep it? Why do ye set your hearts upon riches? Why do ye commit whoredoms and spend your strength with harlots?”

^{13:1} When the king had heard these words, he said unto his priests: “Away with this fellow, and slay him.”

^{13:2} And they attempted to lay their hands on him;

but he withstood them, and said unto them: ³ “Touch me not, for I have not delivered the message which God sent me to deliver. ⁴ Because I have told you the truth ye are angry with me.”

^{15:26} “But behold, and fear, and tremble before God, for ye ought to tremble; for God redeemeth none such that have wilfully rebelled against him, that have known the commandments of God, and would not keep them.”

^{17:1} When Abinadi had finished these sayings, the king commanded that the priests should take him and cause that he should be put to death.

^{17:2} There was one among them whose name was Alma, and he was a young man, and he believed the words which Abinadi had spoken; therefore he began to plead with the king that Abinadi might depart in peace. ³ But the king was more wroth, and sent his servants after Alma that they might slay him. ⁴ But he fled from before them and hid himself that they found him not. And he being concealed for many days did write all the words which Abinadi had spoken.

^{17:5} The king caused that his guards should surround Abinadi and take him. ⁷ And he said unto him: “Abinadi, thou art worthy of death. ⁸ Thou shalt be put to death unless thou wilt recall all the words which thou hast spoken evil concerning me and my people.”

^{17:9} Now Abinadi said unto him: “I will not recall

the words which I have spoken unto you concerning this people, for they are true. ¹⁰ Yea, and I will suffer even until death, and I will not recall my words, and they shall stand as a testimony against you.”

^{17:11} And now king Noah was about to release him, for he feared that the judgments of God would come upon him. ¹² But the priests lifted up their voices saying: “He has reviled the king.” Therefore the king was stirred up in anger against him, and he delivered him up that he might be slain.

^{17:13} They took him and bound him, and scourged his skin with fagots, yea, even unto death. ¹⁴ When the flames began to scorch him, he cried unto them, saying: ¹⁶ “Ye shall be afflicted with all manner of diseases because of your iniquities. ¹⁷ Ye shall be smitten on every hand, and shall be driven and scattered to and fro. ¹⁸ Ye shall be hunted, and taken by the hand of your enemies, and then ye shall suffer, as I suffer, the pains of death by fire.”

^{17:20} When Abinadi had said these words, he fell, having suffered death by fire; yea, having been put to death because he would not deny the commandments of God, having sealed the truth of his words by his death.

^{18:1} Alma, who had fled from the servants of king Noah went about privately among the people, and began to teach the words of Abinadi. ³ He taught them privately, that it might not come to the knowledge of the king. And many did believe his words. ⁴ As many

as did believe him did go forth to a place which was in the borders of the land.

^{18:8} He said unto them: “As ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another’s burdens, that they may be light; ⁹ Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death — ¹⁰ if this be the desire of your hearts, what have you against being baptized in the name of God, as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him, that ye will serve him and keep his commandments?”

^{18:11} When the people had heard these words, they exclaimed: “This is the desire of our hearts.” ¹⁶ And Alma did baptize every one that went forth.

^{18:31} These things were done in the borders of the land, that they might not come to the knowledge of the king. ³² But behold, the king sent his servants to watch them. Therefore they were discovered unto the king. ³³ The king said that Alma was stirring up the people to rebellion against him; therefore he sent his army to destroy them.

^{23:1} Now Alma, having been warned of God that the armies of king Noah would come upon them, and having made it known to his people, therefore they gathered together their flocks, and took of their grain, and departed into the wilderness before the armies of

king Noah. ³ And they fled eight days' journey into the wilderness.

^{23:4} They came to a very beautiful and pleasant land, a land of pure water. ⁵ And they pitched their tents, and began to till the ground, and began to build buildings; yea, they were industrious, and did labor exceedingly.

^{23:6} The people were desirous that Alma should be their king, for he was beloved by his people. ⁷ But he said unto them: "Behold, it is not expedient that we should have a king; for thus saith God: 'Ye shall not esteem one flesh above another, or one man shall not think himself above another;' therefore I say unto you it is not expedient that ye should have a king.

⁸ Nevertheless, 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. ⁹ But remember the iniquity of king Noah and his priests. ¹² Ye have been oppressed by king Noah, and have been in bondage to him and his priests. ¹³ And now as ye have been delivered out of the hands of king Noah and his people, even so I desire that ye trust no man to be a king over you."

^{23:15} Thus did Alma teach his people, that every man should love his neighbor as himself, that there should be no contention among them.

Mosiah

^{1:2} King Benjamin 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 people; 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 la-

bored 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, unless 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.

^{4:12} I say unto you that if ye do this ye shall always rejoice, ¹³ and ye will not have a mind to injure one another, but to live peaceably, and to render to every man according to that which is his due.

^{4:14} And ye will not suffer your children that they go hungry, or naked; neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God, and fight and quarrel one with another. ¹⁵ But ye will teach them to walk in the ways of truth and soberness; ye will teach them to love one another, and to serve one another.

^{4:16} And also, ye yourselves will succor those that stand in need of your succor; ye will administer of your substance unto him that standeth in need; and ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his peti-

tion to you in vain, and turn him out to perish.

^{4:17} Perhaps thou shalt say, "The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just." ¹⁸ But I say unto you, whosoever doeth this hath great cause to repent; and except he repenteth of that which he hath done he perisheth forever, and hath no interest in the kingdom of God.

^{4:19} For behold, are we not all beggars? Do we not all depend upon the same being, even God, for all the substance which we have, for both food and raiment, and for gold, and for silver, and for all the riches which we have of every kind?

^{4:21} If God, who has created you, on whom you are dependent for your lives and for all that ye have and are, doth grant unto you whatsoever ye ask that is right, in faith, believing that ye shall receive, O then, how ye ought to impart of the substance that ye have one to another.

^{4:22} If ye judge the man who putteth up his petition to you for your substance that he perish not, and condemn him, how much more just will be your condemnation for withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you but to God. ²³ Wo be unto that man, for his substance shall perish with him; and now, I say these things unto those who are rich as pertaining to the things of this world.

^{4:24} I say unto the poor, ye who have not and yet

have sufficient, that ye remain from day to day; I mean all you who deny the beggar, because ye have not; I would that ye say in your hearts that: "I give not because I have not, but if I had I would give."

²⁵ If ye say this in your hearts ye remain guiltless, otherwise ye are condemned; and your condemnation is just for ye covet that which ye have not received.

^{4:26} For the sake of retaining a remission of your sins: I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants.

^{4:27} And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order; for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength. And again, it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize; therefore, all things must be done in order.

^{4:28} I would that ye should remember, that whosoever among you borroweth of his neighbor should return the thing that he borroweth, according as he doth agree, or else thou shalt commit sin; and perhaps thou shalt cause thy neighbor to commit sin also.

^{4:29} Finally, I cannot tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin. ³⁰ But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts,

and your words, and your deeds, and observe the commandments of God, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not.

^{5:13} How knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart? ¹⁴ Doth a man take an ass which belongeth to his neighbor, and keep him? I say unto you, Nay; he will not even suffer that he shall feed among his flocks, but will drive him away, and cast him out. ¹⁵ Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life. Amen.

^{6:4} Mosiah began to reign in his father's stead. ⁵ And king Benjamin lived three years and he died.

^{25:1} King Mosiah caused that all the people should be gathered together.

^{25:5} He read the records of Zeniff to his people. ⁶ And he also read the account of Alma and his brethren, and all their afflictions.

^{25:7} When Mosiah had made an end of reading the records, his people were struck with wonder and amazement. ¹⁴ And Mosiah desired that Alma should also speak to the people. ¹⁵ And Alma did speak unto them; preaching unto the people repentance and faith on God.

^{26:1} There were many of the rising generation that could not understand the words of king Benjamin, being little children at the time he spake unto his people.

^{26:5} In the reign of Mosiah they were not half so numerous as the people of God; but because of dissensions among the brethren they became more numerous.

^{27:8} Now the sons of Mosiah were numbered among the unbelievers; and also one of the sons of Alma was numbered among them, he being called Alma, after his father; nevertheless, he became a very wicked and an idolatrous man. And he was a man of many words, and did speak much flattery to the people; therefore he led many of the people to do after the manner of his iniquities. ⁹ And he caused much dissension among the people.

^{27:10} While he was going about to destroy the church of God, ¹¹ the angel of God appeared unto them; ¹² And so great was their astonishment, that they fell to the earth, ¹⁹ and Alma could not open his mouth; and he became weak, even that he could not move his hands.

^{27:23} After two days and two nights, the limbs of Alma received their strength, and he stood up and began to speak unto them, bidding them to be of good comfort: ²⁴ For, said he, "I have repented of my sins, ²⁵ And God said unto me: 'Marvel not that all men and women must be changed from their carnal

state, to a state of righteousness; ²⁶ and unless they do this, they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God.”

^{27:32} Alma began, from this time forward, to teach the people, and those who were with Alma at the time the angel appeared. ³⁴ And four of them were the sons of Mosiah; and their names were Ammon, and Aaron, and Omner, and Himni. ³⁵ They traveled throughout all the land, zealously striving to repair all the injuries which they had done.

^{28:10} Now king Mosiah had no one to confer the kingdom upon, for there was not any of his sons who would accept of the kingdom. ¹¹ Therefore he took the records ²⁰ and conferred them upon Alma, who was the son of Alma; yea, all the records, and commanded him that he should keep and preserve them, and also keep a record of the people, handing them down from one generation to another.

^{29:4} King Mosiah sent a written word among the people, saying: ⁵ “Behold, ye my people are desirous to have a king. ⁶ He to whom the kingdom doth rightly belong has declined, and will not take upon him the kingdom. ⁷ If there should be another appointed in his stead, I fear there would rise contentions among you which would cause wars among you, which would destroy the souls of many people.” ¹⁰ “Let us be wise and look forward to these things, and do that which will make for the peace of this people. ¹¹ Therefore I will be your king the remainder of my days; never-

theless, let us appoint judges, to judge this people according to our law; and we will newly arrange the affairs of this people.”

29:13 “If it were possible that you could have just men to be your kings, if this could always be the case then it would be expedient that ye should always have kings to rule over you. ¹⁶ Because all men are not just it is not expedient that ye should have a king or kings to rule over you. ¹⁷ For behold, how much iniquity doth one wicked king cause to be committed, yea, and what great destruction!”

29:21 “Ye cannot dethrone an iniquitous king save it be through much contention, and the shedding of much blood. ²² For behold, he has his friends in iniquity, and he keepeth his guards about him; and he teareth up the laws of those who have reigned in righteousness before him; and he trampleth under his feet the commandments of God; ²³ And he enacteth laws after the manner of his own wickedness; and whosoever doth not obey his laws he causeth to be destroyed.”

29:25 “Therefore, choose you by the voice of this people, judges, that ye may be judged according to the laws which have been given you by our fathers. ²⁶ This shall ye observe and make it your law — to do your business by the voice of the people.”

29:28 “If ye have judges, and they do not judge you according to the law which has been given, ye can cause that they may be judged of a higher judge.

²⁹ If your higher judges do not judge righteous judgments, ye shall cause that a small number of your lower judges should be gathered together, and they shall judge your higher judges, according to the voice of the people.”

^{29:37} After king Mosiah had sent these things forth among the people, they were convinced of the truth of his words. ³⁸ Therefore they relinquished their desires for a king.

^{29:40} The people did wax strong in love towards Mosiah; for they did not look upon him as a tyrant who was seeking for gain, yea, for that lucre which doth corrupt the soul; for he had not exacted riches of them, neither had he delighted in the shedding of blood; but he had established peace in the land, and he had granted unto his people that they should be delivered from all manner of bondage; therefore they did esteem him beyond measure.

^{29:41} They did appoint judges to rule over them, or to judge them according to the law; and this they did throughout all the land. ⁴² And Alma was appointed to be the first chief judge. ⁴⁷ And thus ended the reign of the kings over the people.

Alma

The account of Alma, who was the son of Alma; the first, and chief judge over the people, and also the

high priest over the Church.

^{1:2} In the first year of the reign of Alma in the judgment seat, there was a man brought before him to be judged, and his name was Nehor. ³ He had gone about among the people, preaching that every priest and teacher ought to become popular; and they ought not to labor with their hands, but that they ought to be supported by the people. ⁵ He did teach these things so much that many did believe on his words, even so many that they began to support him and give him money. ⁶ He began to be lifted up in the pride of his heart, and to wear very costly apparel.

^{1:7} As he was going to preach to those who believed on his word, Nehor met a man and he began to contend with him sharply, but the man withstood him, admonishing him with the words of God. ⁸ Now the name of the man was Gideon. ⁹ Because Gideon withstood him with the words of God Nehor was wroth with Gideon, and drew his sword and began to smite him. Now Gideon being stricken with many years, therefore he was not able to withstand his blows, therefore he was slain by the sword.

^{1:10} Nehor was taken by the people of the church, and was brought before Alma, to be judged according to the crimes which he had committed.

^{1:12} Alma said unto him: "Behold, this is the first time that priestcraft has been introduced among this people. And behold, thou art not only guilty of priestcraft, but hast endeavored to enforce it

by the sword. Were priestcraft to be enforced among this people it would prove their entire destruction. ¹³ Thou hast shed the blood of a righteous man. ¹⁴ Therefore thou art condemned to die, according to the law which has been given us by Mosiah, our last king.”

^{1:15} They took him, and they carried him upon the top of a hill and there he suffered an ignominious death. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, this did not put an end to the spreading of priestcraft through the land; for there were many who loved the vain things of the world, and they went forth preaching false doctrines for the sake of riches and honor.

^{1:21} Now there was a strict law among the people of the church that there should not any man persecute those that did not belong to the church. ²⁷ And they did impart of their substance, every man according to that which he had, to the poor, and the needy, and the sick, and the afflicted; and they did not wear costly apparel, yet they were neat and comely.

^{1:29} Because of the steadiness of the church they began to be exceedingly rich, having abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need. ³⁰ Thus, in their prosperous circumstances, they did not send away any who were naked, or that were hungry, or that were sick. They did not set their hearts upon riches; therefore they were liberal to all.

^{4:6} In the eighth year of the reign of the judges, the

people of the church began to wax proud, because of their exceeding riches which they had obtained by their industry; and they were lifted up in the pride of their eyes, for they began to wear very costly apparel.

⁷ Now this was the cause of much affliction to Alma.

^{4:9} There began to be great contentions among the people of the church; yea, there were envyings, and strife, and malice, and persecutions, and pride.

^{4:15} And now Alma, seeing all their inequality, began to be very sorrowful. ¹⁶ And he selected a wise man, ¹⁷ whose name was Nephiah, and he was appointed chief judge. ¹⁸ Now Alma delivered the judgment seat unto Nephiah.

^{4:19} This he did that he himself might go forth among his people to stir them up in remembrance of their duty, and that he might pull down all the pride and craftiness and all the contentions which were among his people.

^{4:20} And thus in the ninth year of the reign of the judges, Alma delivered up the judgment seat, and confined himself wholly to the priesthood of God.

^{5:1} Alma began to deliver the word of God unto the people throughout all the land. ² These are the words which he spake to the people, according to his own record, saying:

^{5:11} “Did not my father Alma believe in the words which were delivered by the mouth of Abinadi? Did he not speak the words of God, and my father Alma believe them? ¹² And according to his faith there was

a mighty change wrought in his heart. ¹³ And behold, he preached the word unto your fathers, and a mighty change was also wrought in their hearts, and they humbled themselves and put their trust in God.”

^{5:14} “And now, I ask of you, my brethren of the church, have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? ¹⁵ Do you look forward and view this mortal body raised in immortality to stand before God to be judged according to the deeds which have been done in the mortal body?”

^{5:17} “Do ye imagine to yourselves that ye can lie unto God in that day, and say, ‘God, our works have been righteous works,’ and that he will save you?”

^{5:26} “If ye have experienced a change of heart, I would ask, can ye feel so now? ²⁷ Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? ²⁸ Behold, are ye stripped of pride? If ye are not, ye are not prepared to meet God.”

^{5:29} “Behold, is there one among you who is not stripped of envy? Such an one is not prepared; and I would that he should prepare quickly; for such an one is not found guiltless. ³⁰ Is there one among you that doth make a mock of his brother, or that heapeth upon him persecutions? ³¹ Wo unto such an one, for he is not prepared, and the time is at hand that he must repent!”

^{5:33} “Behold, he sendeth an invitation unto all men,

for the arms of mercy are extended towards them, and he saith: ‘Repent, and I will receive you. ³⁵ Yea, come unto me and bring forth works of righteousness.’”

^{5:53} “Can ye withstand these sayings; yea, can ye lay aside these things, can ye be puffed up in the pride of your hearts; yea, will ye still persist in the wearing of costly apparel and setting your hearts upon the vain things of the world, upon your riches? ⁵⁴ Yea, will ye persist in supposing that ye are better one than another; yea, will ye persist in the persecution of your brethren. ⁵⁵ Yea, and will you persist in turning your backs upon the poor, and the needy, and in withholding your substance from them?”

^{5:57} “All you that are desirous to follow the voice of the good shepherd, come ye out from the wicked, and be ye separate, and touch not their unclean things.”

^{5:61} “And now I, Alma, do command you to observe to do the words which I have spoken unto you.”

^{6:8} Alma went and began to declare the word of God unto the church which was established in the valley of Gideon.

^{7:1} “Behold my beloved brethren, seeing that I have been permitted to come unto you, therefore I attempt to address you in my language. ² I could not have come now at this time were it not that the judgment seat hath been given to another, to reign in my stead.”

^{7:7} “I say unto you there be many things to come;

and behold, there is one thing which is of more importance than they all — for behold, the time is not far distant that the Redeemer cometh among his people. ¹⁰ He shall be born of Mary, at Jerusalem, she being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel, who shall conceive, and bring forth a son, yea, even the son of God.” ¹¹ “And he shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind; and this that the word might be fulfilled which saith he will take upon him the pains and the sicknesses of his people. ¹² And he will take upon him death, that he may loose the bands of death which bind his people; and he will take upon him their infirmities, that his bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh, that he may know according to the flesh how to succor his people according to their infirmities.”

^{7:15} “Yea, come and fear not, and lay aside every sin, which easily doth beset you, which doth bind you down to destruction, yea, come and go forth, and show unto your God that ye are willing to repent of your sins.”

^{7:22} “And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him. ²³ I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive and gentle; easy to be entreated; full of patience and long-suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times; asking for whatsoever

things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive.”

^{7:27} “May the peace of God rest upon you, and upon your houses and lands, and upon your flocks and herds, and all that you possess, your women and your children, according to your faith and good works. Amen.”

^{8:1} Alma returned from the land of Gideon, after having taught the people. He returned to his own house to rest himself from the labors which he had performed.

^{8:6} Alma came to a city which was called Ammonihah. ⁸ He began to preach the word of God unto them.

^{8:13} The people withstood all his words, and reviled him, and spit upon him, and caused that he should be cast out of their city. He departed thence and took his journey. ¹⁴ While he was journeying, an angel appeared unto him, saying: ¹⁶ “Return to the city of Ammonihah, and preach again unto the people of the city.”

^{8:18} Alma returned speedily to the land of Ammonihah, and entered the city by another way. ¹⁹ As he entered the city he said to a man: “Will ye give to an humble servant of God something to eat?”

^{8:20} The man said unto him: “I know that thou art a holy prophet of God, for thou art the man whom an angel said in a vision: ‘Thou shalt receive’. Therefore,

go with me into my house and I will impart unto thee of my food.”

^{8:21} The man was called Amulek; and he brought forth bread and meat and set before Alma. ²⁷ Alma tarried many days with Amulek before he began to preach unto the people.

^{8:30} Alma went forth, and also Amulek, among the people, to declare the words of God unto them.

^{9:1} I, Alma, having been commanded of God that I should take Amulek and go forth and preach again unto this people, it came to pass as I began to preach unto them, they began to contend with me, saying: ² “Who art thou? Suppose ye that we shall believe the testimony of one man? ⁶ Who is God, that sendeth no more authority than one man among this people?”

^{9:7} I did boldly testify unto them, saying: ⁸ “How soon ye have forgotten the commandments of God. ¹³ Do ye not remember the words which he spake saying that: ‘Inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper in the land?’”

^{9:31} When I, Alma, had spoken these words, behold, the people were wroth with me because I said unto them that they were a hard-hearted and a stiffnecked people. ³² And also because I said unto them that they were a lost and a fallen people, they were angry with me, and sought to lay their hands upon me, that they might cast me into prison.

^{9:34} Amulek went and stood forth, and began to

preach unto them also, ^{10:1} saying: ² "I am Amulek. ⁴ I am also a man of no small reputation; yea, and behold, I have many kindreds and friends, and I have also acquired much riches by the hand of my industry. ⁵ Nevertheless, after all this, I never have known much of the ways of God. ⁶ I did harden my heart, for I was called many times and I would not hear; therefore I went on rebelling against God, in the wickedness of my heart, even until the fourth day of this seventh month."

^{10:7} "As I was journeying to see a very near kindred, behold an angel of God appeared unto me and said: 'Amulek, return to thine own house, for thou shalt receive a prophet of the Lord into thy house and feed him, and he shall bless thee and thy house.' ⁸ I obeyed the voice of the angel, and returned towards my house. As I was going thither I found the man, and behold it was this same man who has been speaking unto you concerning the things of God."

^{10:12} When Amulek had spoken these words the people began to be astonished, seeing there was more than one witness who testified of the things whereof they were accused.

^{10:13} 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 be slain or cast into prison, according to the crime which they could make appear. 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 before the judges.

^{10:16} They began to question Amulek, that thereby they might make him contradict the words which he should speak.

^{10:17} As they began to question him, he perceived their thoughts, and he said unto them: “O ye wicked and perverse generation, for ye are laying traps and snares to catch the holy ones of God.”

^{10:19} “Yea, well did Mosiah say that if the time should come that the voice of this people should choose iniquity, they would be ripe for destruction.”

^{10:24} The people were more angry with Amulek, and they cried out, saying: “This man doth revile against our laws which are just, and our wise lawyers whom we have selected.”

^{10:31} And there was one among them whose name was Zeezrom. Now he was the foremost to accuse Amulek and Alma, he being one of the most expert among them, having much business to do among the people.

^{10:32} Now the object of these lawyers was to get gain; and they got gain according to their employ. ^{11:1} Now it was in the law of Mosiah that every man who was a judge of the law should receive wages according to the time which they labored to judge those who were brought before them.

^{11:20} Now, it was for the sole purpose to get gain,

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.

^{11:22} Zeezrom said unto Amulek: “Behold, here are six pieces of silver, and all these will I give thee if thou wilt deny the existence of a supreme being.”

^{11:23} Now Amulek said: “O thou child of hell, why tempt ye me? Knowest thou that the righteous yieldeth to no such temptations? ²⁴ Believeest thou that there is no God? I say unto you, Nay, thou knowest that there is a God, but thou lovest that lucre more than him. ²⁵ And now thou hast lied before God unto me. Thou saidst unto me, ‘Behold these six pieces of silver, which are of great worth, I will give unto thee,’ when thou hadst it in thy heart to retain them from me.”

^{12:7} Zeezrom began to tremble, for he was convinced that Alma and Amulek knew the thoughts and intents of his heart. ⁸ And Zeezrom began to inquire of them diligently, that he might know more concerning the kingdom of God. And he said unto Alma: “What does this mean which Amulek hath spoken that all are brought to stand before God to be judged according to their works?”

^{12:9} Alma began to expound these things unto him, saying: “God shall not impart unto the children of

men only 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."

^{12:12} "Amulek hath spoken plainly concerning death, and being brought before God, to be judged according to our works. ¹⁴ For our words will condemn us, yea, all our works will condemn us, and our thoughts will also condemn us."

^{12:24} "We see that death comes upon mankind. 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. ³⁷ And now, my brethren, seeing we know these things, and they are true, let us repent, and harden not our hearts."

^{13:27} "My brethren, I wish from the inmost part of my heart, yea, with great anxiety even unto pain, that ye would hearken unto my words, and cast off your sins, and not procrastinate the day of your repentance; ²⁸ But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and watch and pray continually, that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long-suffering; ²⁹ Having faith on God; having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life; having the love of God always in your hearts."

^{13:31} And Alma spake many more words unto the people, which are not written in this book.

^{14:1} After he had made an end of speaking unto the people many of them did believe on his words, and began to repent, and to search the scriptures. ² But the more part of them were desirous that they might destroy Alma and Amulek; for they were angry with Alma, because of the plainness of his words.

^{14:4} They took them and bound them with strong cords, and took them before the chief judge of the land. ⁵ And the people witnessed against them before the chief judge.

^{14:6} Zeezrom was astonished at the words which had been spoken; and his soul began to be harrowed up under a consciousness of his own guilt. ⁷ He began to cry unto the people, saying: "Behold, I am guilty, and these men are spotless before God." And he began to plead for them from that time forth; but they reviled him, and spit upon him, and cast him out from among them, and also all those who believed in the words which had been spoken by Alma and Amulek, and sent men to cast stones at them.

^{14:8} They brought their wives and children together, and whosoever believed in the word of God they caused that they should be cast into the fire, and they also brought forth their records which contained the holy scriptures, and cast them into the fire also.

^{14:9} They took Alma and Amulek, and carried them forth to the place of martyrdom, that they might wit-

ness the destruction of those who were consumed by fire. ¹⁰ When Amulek saw the pains of the women and children who were consuming in the fire, he also was pained.

^{14:12} Amulek said unto Alma: “Perhaps they will burn us also.”

^{14:13} Alma said: “Be it according to the will of God.”

^{14:14} When the bodies of those who had been cast into the fire were consumed, and also the records which were cast in with them, the chief judge of the land came and stood before Alma and Amulek, as they were bound; and he smote them with his hand, and said unto them: “After what ye have seen, will ye preach again unto this people?”

^{14:17} Alma and Amulek answered him nothing; and he smote them again, and delivered them to the officers to be cast into prison.

^{14:18} When they had been cast into prison three days, there came many lawyers, and judges, and priests, and teachers in unto the prison to see them, and they questioned them about many words; but they answered them nothing.

^{14:19} The judge stood before them, and said: “Why do ye not answer the words of this people? Know ye not that I have power to deliver you up unto the flames?” And he commanded them to speak; but they answered nothing.

^{14:20} Many came forth also, and smote them, saying: “Will ye stand again and judge this people, and

condemn our law?" and spitting upon them, saying: "How shall we look when we are damned?"

^{14:22} Thus they did mock them for many days. And they did withhold food from them that they might hunger, and water that they might thirst; and they also did take from them their clothes that they were naked; and thus they were bound with strong cords, and confined in prison.

^{14:23} After they had thus suffered for many days, the chief judge over the land of Ammonihah and many of their teachers and their lawyers went in unto the prison where Alma and Amulek were bound with cords. ²⁷ And the earth shook mightily, and the walls of the prison were rent in twain; and the chief judge, and the lawyers, and priests, and teachers, were slain by the fall thereof.

^{14:28} And Alma and Amulek came forth out of the prison, and they were not hurt.

^{15:1} Alma and Amulek departed, and went into the land of Sidom. There they found all the people who had departed out of the land of Ammonihah, who had been cast out and stoned, because they believed in the words of Alma.

^{15:16} Amulek having forsaken all his gold, and silver, and his precious things, which were in the land of Ammonihah, he being rejected by those who were once his friends and also by his father and his kindred; ¹⁸ Alma having seen all these things, therefore he took Amulek and came over to the land of Zara-

hemla, and took him to his own house, and did administer unto him in his tribulations.

^{17:1} As Alma was journeying, he met the sons of Mosiah. ⁶ Having taken leave of their father, Mosiah, in the first year of the judges; having refused the kingdom which their father was desirous to confer upon them; ⁷ Nevertheless they departed out of the land of Zarahemla, ⁸ into the wilderness to go up to the land of Nephi, to preach the word of God.

^{17:13} When they arrived in the borders of the land, ¹⁷ they separated themselves one from another, and went forth among them, every man alone.

^{17:19} Ammon went to the land of Ishmael. ²⁰ And as Ammon entered the land, he was bound and ²¹ carried before the king who was over the land; and his name was Lamoni.

^{17:22} The king inquired of Ammon if it were his desire to dwell in the land among his people.

^{17:23} Ammon said unto him: "Yea, I desire to dwell among this people for a time; yea, and perhaps until the day I die."

^{17:24} King Lamoni was much pleased with Ammon, and caused that his bands should be loosed; and he would that Ammon should take one of his daughters to wife. ²⁵ But Ammon said unto him: "Nay, but I will be thy servant." Therefore Ammon became a servant to king Lamoni. And he was set among other servants to watch the flocks of Lamoni.

^{17:27} As Ammon and the servants of the king were driving forth their flocks to the place of water, behold, a certain number of men stood and scattered the flocks of the king.

^{17:28} Now the servants of the king began to murmur, saying: "Now the king will slay us, as he has our brethren because their flocks were scattered."

^{17:31} Alma flattered them by his words, saying: "My brethren, be of good cheer and let us go in search of the flocks, and we will gather them together and bring them back unto the place of water; and thus we will preserve the flocks unto the king and he will not slay us."

^{17:32} They went in search of the flocks, and did follow Ammon, and did head the flocks of the king, and did gather them together again to the place of water.

^{17:33} Those men again stood to scatter their flocks; but Ammon said unto his brethren: "Encircle the flocks round about that they flee not; and I go and contend with these men who do scatter our flocks."

^{17:34} He went forth and stood to contend with them; and they were in number not a few. ³⁵ Therefore they did not fear Ammon, for they supposed that one of their men could slay him according to their pleasure. ³⁶ But Ammon stood forth and began to cast stones at them with his sling; and thus he slew a certain number of them. They came forth with clubs to slay him. ³⁷ But behold, every man that lifted his club to smite Ammon, he smote off their arms with his

sword; insomuch that they began to flee before him.

^{17:39} When he had driven them afar off, he returned and they watered their flocks and returned them to the pasture of the king, and then went in unto the king, bearing the arms of those who sought to slay Ammon for a testimony of the things which they had done.

^{18:2} When they had all testified to the things which they had seen, and he had learned of Ammon's great power in contending against those who sought to slay him, he was astonished exceedingly, and said: "Surely, this is more than a man. ⁴ This is the Great Spirit of whom our fathers have spoken."

^{18:8} King Lamoni inquired of his servants, saying: "Where is this man that has such great power?"

^{18:9} They said unto him: "He is feeding thy horses." Now the king had commanded his servants, previous to the time of the watering of their flocks, that they should prepare his horses.

^{18:10} When king Lamoni heard this, he was more astonished, saying: "Surely there has not been any servant among all my servants that has been so faithful as this man; for even he doth remember all my commandments to execute them."

^{18:12} When Ammon had made ready the horses, he went in unto the king, and he saw that the countenance of the king was changed; therefore he was about to return out of his presence. ¹³ One of the king's servants said unto him, "The king desireth

thee to stay.”

^{18:14} Therefore Ammon turned himself unto the king, and said unto him: “What wilt thou that I should do for thee, O king?” And the king answered him not for the space of an hour, for he knew not what he should say unto him.

^{18:15} Ammon said unto him again: “What desirest thou of me?” But the king answered him not.

^{18:16} Ammon said unto him: “Is it because thou hast heard that I defended thy servants and thy flocks; behold, is it this that causeth thy marvelings? ¹⁷ Behold, I am a man, and am thy servant; therefore, whatsoever thou desirest which is right, that will I do.”

^{18:18} When the king had heard these words, he marvelled again, for he beheld that Ammon could discern his thoughts. King Lamoni said unto him: “Who art thou? Art thou that Great Spirit, who knows all things?”

^{18:19} Ammon answered, “I am not.”

^{18:20} The king said, “How knowest thou the thoughts of my heart? Also tell me by what power ye slew my brethren that scattered my flocks. ²¹ If thou wilt tell me concerning these things, whatsoever thou desirest I will give unto thee.”

^{18:24} Ammon said unto him, “Believest thou that there is a God?”

^{18:25} He answered, “I do not know what that meaneth.”

^{18:26} Then Ammon said, “Believest thou that there

is a Great Spirit?"

^{18:27} He said, "Yea."

^{18:28} Ammon said, "This is God."

^{18:33} King Lamoni said, "I believe all these things which thou hast spoken. Art thou sent from God?"

^{18:34} Ammon said unto him, "I am a man; and I am called to teach these things unto this people, that they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just and true."

^{18:36} Now when Ammon had said these words, he rehearsed and laid before him the records and the holy scriptures of the people. ⁴⁰ After he had said all these things, and expounded them to the king, the king believed all his words.

^{19:31} And he went forth to teach his people the words which he had heard from Ammon; and as many as heard his words believed, and were converted unto God. ³² But there were many among them who would not hear his words.

^{19:36} And thus we see that the arm of God is extended to all people who will repent and believe on his name.

^{20:1} When they had established a church in that land, king Lamoni desired that Ammon should go with him to the land of Nephi, that he might show him unto his father.

^{20:2} The voice of the Lord came to Ammon saying, "Thou shalt not go up to the land of Nephi, for behold, the king will seek thy life; but thou shalt go to

the land of Middoni; for behold, thy brethren are in prison.”

^{20:7} Lamoni said unto Ammon, “I will go with thee to the land of Middoni, and there I will plead with the king that he will cast thy brethren out of prison.”

^{20:8} As Ammon and Lamoni were journeying, they met the father of Lamoni, who was king over all the land. ⁹ He said unto Lamoni, “Why did ye not come when I made a feast unto my sons, and unto my people? ¹⁰ Whither art thou going?”

^{20:11} Lamoni rehearsed unto him whither he was going. ¹³ His father was angry with him, and said, “He is come amongst us that he may deceive us, that he may rob us of our property.”

^{20:14} Now the father of Lamoni commanded him that he should slay Ammon with the sword, and that he should not go to the land of Middoni. ¹⁵ But Lamoni said unto him, “I will not slay Ammon, but I go to the land of Middoni that I may release the brethren of Ammon, for I know that they are just men and holy prophets.”

^{20:16} When his father had heard these words, he was angry with him, and he drew his sword that he might smite him to the earth. ¹⁷ But Ammon stood forth and said unto him, “Thou shalt not slay thy son; nevertheless, it were better that he should fall than thee, for behold, he has repented of his sins.”

^{20:19} Now when Ammon had said these words unto him, he answered him, saying, “It is thou that hast

sought to destroy him.” ²⁰ And he stretched forth his hand to slay Ammon. But Ammon withstood his blows, and also smote his arm that he could not use it.

^{20:23} Now the king, fearing he should lose his life, said, “If thou wilt spare me I will grant unto thee whatsoever thou wilt ask, even to half of the kingdom.”

^{20:24} Ammon said unto him, “If thou wilt grant that my brethren may be cast out of prison, and also that Lamoni may retain his kingdom, and grant that he may do according to his own desires, then will I spare thee; otherwise I will smite thee to the earth.”

^{20:26} When he saw that Ammon had no desire to destroy him, he was astonished exceedingly, and said: “Because this is all that thou hast desired, I will grant unto you that my son may retain his kingdom from this time and forever; and I will govern him no more. ²⁷ I will also grant unto thee that thy brethren may be cast out of prison, and thou and thy brethren may come unto me, in my kingdom; for I shall greatly desire to see thee.”

^{20:28} Ammon and Lamoni proceeded on their journey towards the land of Middoni, and the brethren of Ammon were brought forth out of prison.

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. ⁹ The 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.

¹⁰ They 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. ¹² Notwithstanding 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. ¹³ And 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. ¹¹ And 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, therefore 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. ² After

the great and tremendous battle, behold, those who had escaped into the country southward were hunted by our enemies, until they were all destroyed. ³ And 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.

⁵ My 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.

¹⁹ For behold, the same that judgeth rashly shall be judged rashly again; for according to his works shall his wages be. ²⁰ Behold 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.