

Contention and Secret Combinations Among the

Nephites

Helaman 1-2

Lesson 106

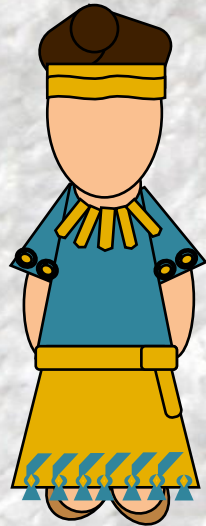
Suggested Hymn: #14
Sweet Is the Peace
the Gospel Brings
Vs 1,3,5, and 7



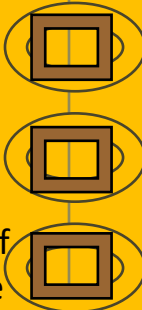
Mormon compiled and abridged records from the large plates of Nephi to create the book of Helaman



The book is named for Helaman, who was a son of Helaman and a grandson of Alma the Younger.



Helaman received the records from Shiblon, his uncle, and served as a righteous chief judge over the Nephites.



He taught his sons Nephi and Lehi to keep the commandments and to remember their Redeemer and make Him the foundation of their lives

Introduction

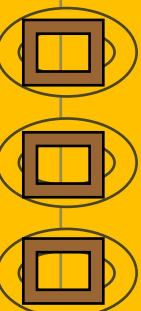
Inspired by these teachings and concerned about the wickedness of the people, Nephi and Lehi preached repentance to the Nephites and the Lamanites.



Nephi gave up his position as chief judge to do so.



After thousands of Lamanites were converted, a Lamanite prophet named Samuel was inspired to preach repentance and prophesy among the Nephites.



The book of Helaman draws from the records kept during the reigns and ministries of Helaman and Nephi.

The Book of Helaman

To whom was this book written and why?

Mormon wrote the book of Helaman for the people in the latter days who would receive his record. Like his other abridgments from the large plates of Nephi, the book of Helaman testifies of the divinity and redeeming mission of Jesus Christ.



When and where was it written?

The original records used as sources for the book of Helaman were likely written between 52 B.C. and 1 B.C. Mormon abridged those records sometime between A.D. 345 and A.D. 385. Mormon did not record where he was when he compiled this book.

Interesting Details



The book of Helaman portrays the Nephites fluctuating between righteousness and wickedness with greater frequency than at any other time in their history.

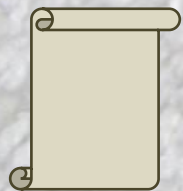


The book relates multiple instances of dissension, war, murder, and secret combinations. It also introduces and describes the activities of the Gadianton robbers, whose works of darkness eventually brought about the destruction of the Nephites.

The book of Helaman is also unique because it describes a period when “the more part” of the Lamanites were converted and “their righteousness did exceed that of the Nephites”.

The book demonstrates the power God gives to His prophets, such as when Nephi revealed the murder of a chief judge and prophesied the confession of the judge’s brother and when Nephi received the sealing power from the Lord and then exercised it to induce and revoke a famine.

This book contains the only record of a sermon of a Lamanite prophet delivered to the Nephites. In this sermon, Samuel prophesied the signs of the birth and death of Jesus Christ.



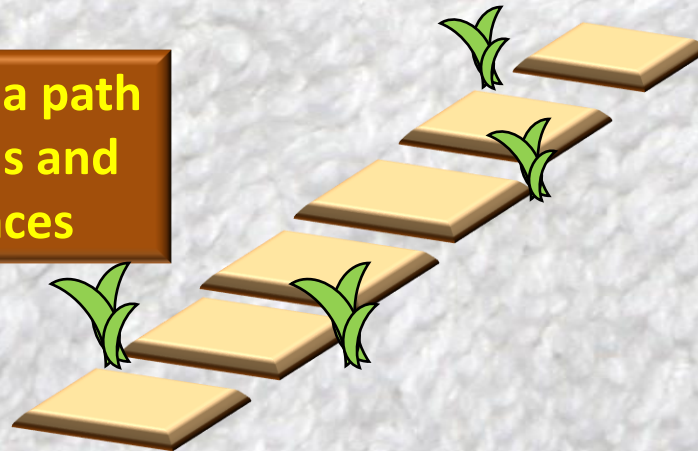
Discussing VS Contending

Discussing



1. To explain your position through friendly persuasion and facts
2. To show respect for others opinions
3. To remain calm about issues that you are passionate about

Contention-can be like a path that leads to other sins and negative consequences



Contending



1. To argue or state (something) in a strong and definite way
2. To show disrespect toward a person whose views are different from yours
3. To feel that winning an argument is more important than another person's well-being



**“When there is contention, the Spirit of the Lord will depart, regardless of who is at fault.”
President James E. Faust**

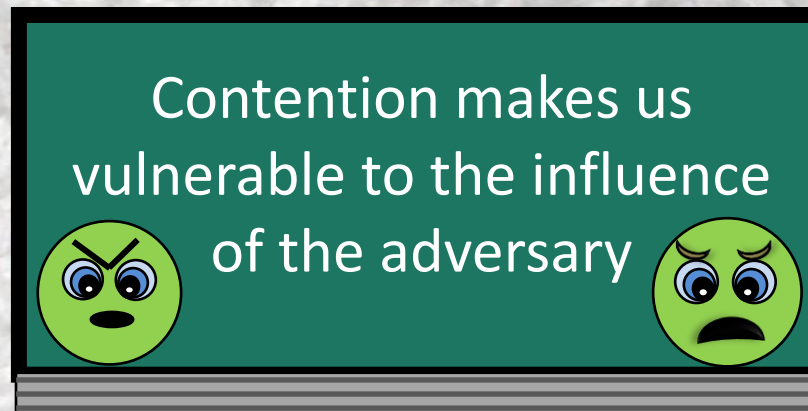
“The sins of corruption, dishonesty, strife, contention, and other evils in this world are not here by chance. They are evidences of the relentless campaign of Satan and those who follow him.

He uses every tool and device available to him to deceive, confuse, and mislead.”

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin



3 Ne. 11:29



“Where people have that Spirit with them, we may expect harmony. The Spirit puts the testimony of truth in our hearts, which unifies those who share that testimony. The Spirit of God never generates contention.

It never generates the feelings of distinctions between people which lead to strife.

It leads to personal peace and a feeling of union with others.

It unifies souls.

A unified family, a unified Church, and a world at peace depend on unified souls.”

President Henry B. Eyring



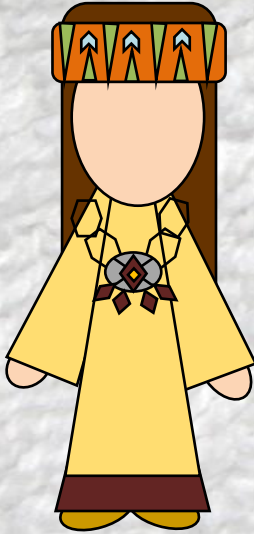
Joseph F. Smith, *Gospel Doctrine*, 13th ed. [1963], 131

Contention Divides a Nation

After Parohan's death, who would take the role of chief judge and governor over the people of Nephi?

Pahoran had many sons:

About 52 BC



Pahoran II

The people elected him

Kishkumen, a follower of Paanchi, assassinated him



Paanchi

He tried to destroy the liberty of the people and was arrested and condemned to death--treason

His followers laid the foundation for the secret works of Gadianton—a collaborator



Pacumeni

He accepted the vote After the death of Pahoran II he was installed as chief judge and governor for a year

He was killed by invading Lamanites under Coriantumr

Contention Divides People



If a young woman has been arguing with her parents about her friends, how might it affect her attitude toward her parents' counsel in other areas of her life?



If siblings have been contentious, how might their behavior affect their long-term relationship? How might it affect the entire family?

How can contention in a ward or branch make Church members more vulnerable to Satan's attacks?

If a young man has angry feelings toward someone in his priesthood quorum, how might his feelings affect his actions at church? How might they affect his attendance at church?



How might contentious feelings weaken us when we face temptation?

Kishkumen

He was an assassin around 52 BC

Paanchi, son of Pahoran I, revolted against the decision of the people to have his brother Pahoran II as the chief judge and governor of the people of Nephi so he hired one of his followers, Kishkumen, to murder Pahoran I

He fled from the forces of Pahoran and made his sponsors take a secret oath not to expose who he was

Because Kishkumen went in a disguise, no one ever found him

He founded the band of Kishkumen who became the Gadiaton Robbers, with Gadiaton as their leader

He attempted to murder Helaman II, son of Helaman

He died by the sword of one of Helaman's servants

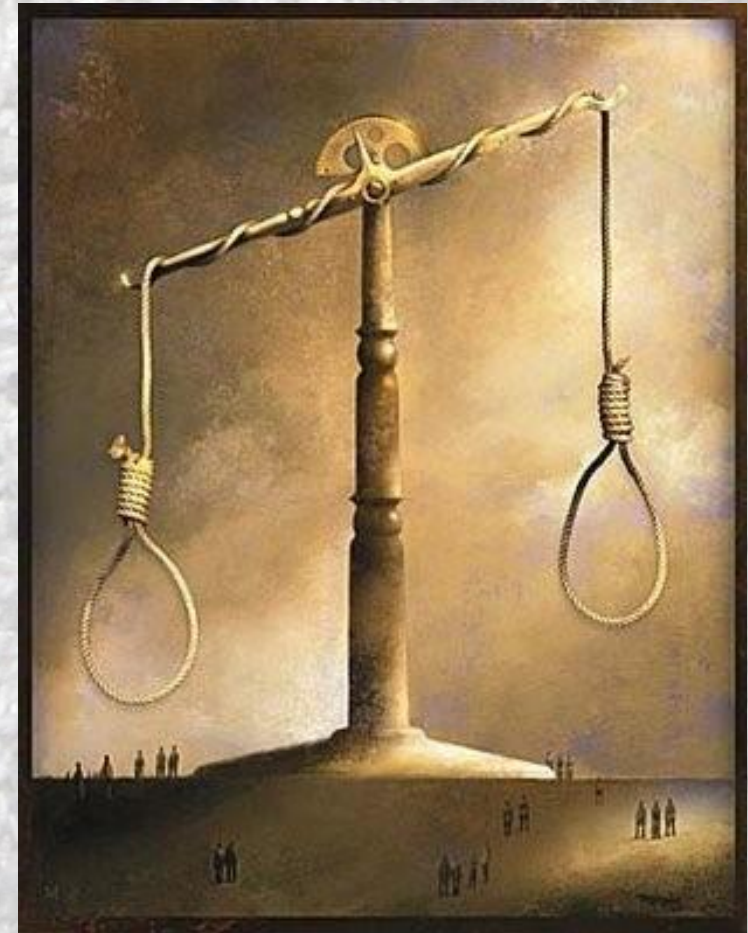
The band had fled into the wilderness and could not be found



Setting the Stage for a Downfall

The contention helped to set the stage for much evil and also for the eventual downfall of the Nephite nation

- 1. Capital punishment was the accepted punishment for treason**
- 2. Those who seek to circumvent the law for power are willing to resort to violence to get their ways**
- 3. The contention over the judgment seat gave the attacking Lamanites a decided advantage against the Nephites**



Tubaloth

He was the son of Ammoron

He was king of the Lamanites after his father's death around 51 BC

He stirred up his people in anger against the Nephites

He placed Coriantumr in charge of his army

His forces came up against Moronihah and Lehi

The Lamanites were defeated and Coriantumr was killed

He is not mentioned again



Coriantumr

He was a Nephite dissenter and a descendent of Zarahemla of Mulekite heritage

He was placed in charge of the Lamanite armies by the Lamanite King Tubaloth, son of Ammoron (a Zoramite)

He plunged his army into the heart of the Nephite territories and took control of the capital city Zarahemla in the year 51 BC

He killed Pacumeni

Overconfident, Coriantumr's army soon were defeated by the Nephites with the leadership of generals Moronihah and Lehi

He was killed in the battle around 51 BC



Helaman

He was the Son of Helaman, and grandson of Alma the Younger

He was chief judge in Zarahemla around 50 BC

He survived an assassination attempt by Kishkumen, one of Gadianton's accomplices

He brought spiritual rejuvenation to the people of Nephi

He presided over a period of great economic development and growth within the church

He had two sons, Nephi and Lehi, whom he named after two of their ancestors, the prophets Nephi and Lehi

He bestowed upon Nephi and Lehi the patriarchal blessing



Keeping a Secret

Why is it better to clean up a mess rather than to cover it up?

Why might someone want to cover up something he or she has done?



“If you have seriously transgressed, you will not find any lasting satisfaction or comfort in what you have done. Excusing transgression with a cover-up may appear to fix the problem, but it does not. The tempter is intent on making public your most embarrassing acts at the most harmful time. Lies weave a pattern that is ever more confining and becomes a trap that Satan will spring to your detriment.”

Elder Richard G. Scott



To Cover Up—The Rights of the Priesthood

“Behold, there are many called, but few are chosen. And why are they not chosen?”

Because their hearts are set so much upon the things of this world, and aspire to the honors of men, that they do not learn this one lesson—

That the rights of the priesthood are inseparably connected with the powers of heaven, and that the powers of heaven cannot be controlled nor handled only upon the principles of righteousness.”



“That they may be conferred upon us, it is true; but when we undertake to cover our sins, or to gratify our pride, our vain ambition, or to exercise control or dominion or compulsion upon the souls of the children of men, in any degree of unrighteousness, behold,

the heavens withdraw themselves; the Spirit of the Lord is grieved; and when it is withdrawn, Amen to the priesthood or the authority of that man.”

Gadianton

He was associated with trying to overthrow the free government during the time of Captain Moroni

Over the years the band grew and Kishkumen was one of the men who was in the revolt against the government

He was the successor of Kishkumen around 50 BC

He was the promoter of slavery and destruction

He was a destroyer bent on deceiving people into using secret combinations to allow evil to triumph over good and to empower Satan to enslave the Lord's people

His goal was to undermine the Nephite nation

He and his band murdered Cezoram and his son around 26 BC

His band overcame the government

The band, along with others, were eventually destroyed with the coming of the Savior

His doctrine rose again among the Nephites and it eventually led to the destruction of the Nephites



Giving a Sign

Gadanton's band is an example of a secret combination society



Secret combinations can lead to the destruction of societies



Secret combinations led to the destruction of the Jaredites.
(Ether 8:20–21.)



“The Book of Mormon teaches that secret combinations engaged in crime present a serious challenge, not just to individuals and families but to entire civilizations. Among today’s secret combinations are gangs, drug cartels, and organized crime families. ...

“If we are not careful, today’s secret combinations can obtain power and influence just as quickly and just as completely as they did in Book of Mormon times. ...



“... [The devil] uses secret combinations, including gangs, ‘from generation to generation according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men.’ His purpose is to destroy individuals, families, communities, and nations.

**To a degree, he was successful during Book of Mormon times. And he is having far too much success today. That’s why it is so important for us ... to take a firm stand for truth and right by doing what we can to help keep our communities safe”
Elder M. Russell Ballard**

The Destruction of the Nephites

The end of the 42nd year of the Reign of the Judges

Helaman sent forth to take
Gadianton's band but they secretly
went into the wilderness



***“And behold, in the end of this book ye shall see that this Gadianton did prove the overthrow, yea, almost the entire destruction of the people of Nephi.*”**

Behold I do not mean the end of the book of Helaman, but I mean the end of the book of Nephi, from which I have taken all the account which I have written.”

Sources:

Videos:

Evil Secret Words Can Destroy Society (2:09)

Nephi Prophecies Death of Chief Judge (2:18)



Book of Mormon Who's Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg 41, 54-55, 65-66, 94, 152-154, 181-182

President James E. Faust ("What I Want My Son to Know before He Leaves on His Mission," *Ensign*, May 1996, 41).

Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin ("Deep Roots," *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 76).

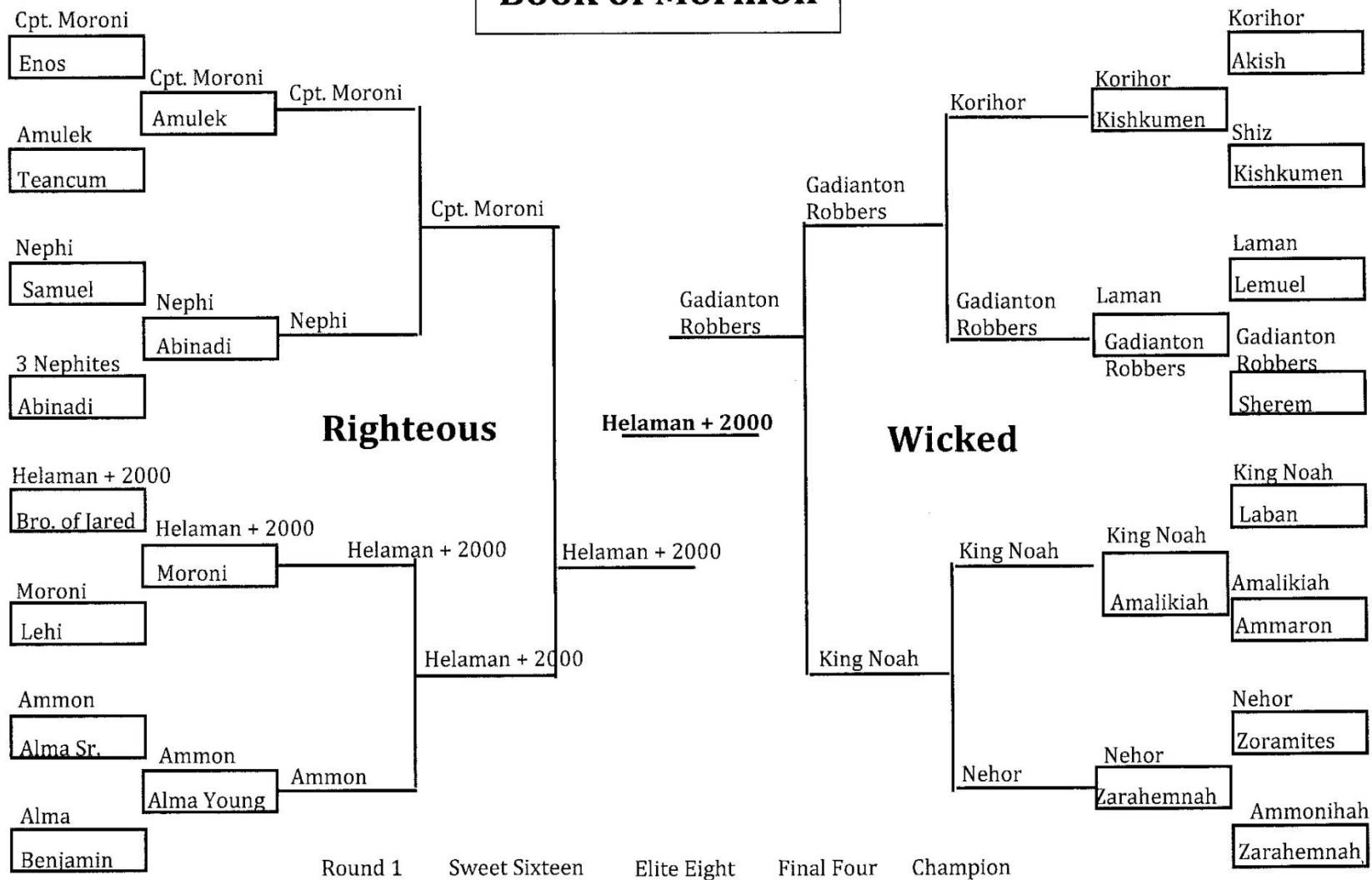
President Henry B. Eyring ("That We May Be One," *Ensign*, May 1998, 67).


Richard G. Scott ("Finding Forgiveness," *Ensign*, May 1995, 77).

Elder M. Russell Ballard ("Standing for Truth and Right," *Ensign*, Nov. 1997, 38).

March madness chart <http://justifiedbythescrptures.wordpress.com/tag/duke/>

March Madness Book of Mormon



CHIEF PRIESTS	BOOK DATES	NEPHITE HISTORIANS	CHIEF PRIESTS	BOOK DATES	NEPHITE HISTORIANS
Alma II (Mosiah 29-44)	91 BC	Alma II	Alma II (Mosiah 29-44)	91 BC	Alma II
Nephihah (Alma 4:17, 20)	83 BC		Nephihah (Alma 4:17, 20)	83 BC	
	73 BC	Helaman I		73 BC	Helaman I
Pahoran I	67 BC		Pahoran I	67 BC	
	56 BC	Shiblon		56 BC	Shiblon
	53 BC	Helaman II		53 BC	Helaman II
Pahoran II (Helaman 1:1,5)	52 BC		Pahoran II (Helaman 1:1,5)	52 BC	
Pachumen (Helaman 2:1-3)	51 BC		Pachumen (Helaman 2:1-3)	51 BC	
Helaman II (Helaman 2:1-2) 	50 BC		Helaman II (Helaman 2:1-2) 	50 BC	
Nephi II (Helaman 3:37)	39 BC	Nephi II	Nephi II (Helaman 3:37)	39 BC	Nephi II
Cezoram I (Helaman 5:1)	30 BC		Cezoram I (Helaman 5:1)	30 BC	
Cezoram II (Helaman 6:15)	26 BC		Cezoram II (Helaman 6:15)	26 BC	
Seezoram (Helaman 9:23)	26 BC		Seezoram (Helaman 9:23)	26 BC	
Unnamed (maybe Lachoneus I)	23 BC – 1 AD		Unnamed (maybe Lachoneus I)	23 BC – 1 AD	
Lachoneus I (3 Nephi 1:1)	1 AD	Nephi III	Lachoneus I (3 Nephi 1:1)	1 AD	Nephi III
Lachoneus II (3 Nephi 6:19)	29-30 AD		Lachoneus II (3 Nephi 6:19)	29-30 AD	

Who Kept the Records in the Book of Mormon?

Lineage of Lehi

Record Keeper	Dates*	Comments	Reference
Nephi₁	615 B.C.	born in Jerusalem	1 Nephi 1:4
	600 B.C.	begins record when about 15 years old	1 Nephi 1:1
	540 B.C.	dies about 75 years old	
Jacob	592 B.C.	born son of Lehi, brother of Nephi ₁	1 Nephi 18:7
	544 B.C.	becomes record keeper	Jacob 1:1
	495 B.C.	dies about 97 years old	Jacob 7:27
Enos	515 B.C.	born son of Jacob	Jacob 7:27
	420 B.C.	about to die	Enos 1:25
	417 B.C.	dies about 98 years old	
Jarom	440 B.C.	born son of Enos	Jarom 1:1
	420 B.C.	becomes record keeper	Jarom 1:1
	361 B.C.	gives plates to Omni	Jarom 1:15
	355 B.C.	dies about 85 years old	
Omni	390 B.C.	born son of Jarom	Omni 1:1
	361 B.C.	becomes record keeper	Jarom 1:15
	317 B.C.	writes 3 verses on plates in 44 years	Omni 1:1-3
	315 B.C.	dies about 75 years old	Omni 1:3
Amaron	350 B.C.	born son of Omni	Omni 1:4
	317 B.C.	becomes record keeper	Omni 1:4
	277 B.C.	dies about 73 years old	Omni 1:8
Chemish	330 B.C.	born son of Omni, brother of Amaron	Omni 1:9
	279 B.C.	becomes record keeper	Omni 1:9
	250 B.C.	dies about 80 years old	Omni 1:9
Abinadom	270 B.C.	born son of Chemish	Omni 1:10
	180 B.C.	dies about 90 years old	Omni 1:10
Amaleki	210 B.C.	born son of Abinadom	Omni 1:12
	150 B.C.	Nephites move to Zarahemla	Omni 1:13
	138 B.C.	dies about 72 years old	Omni 1:30

*dates are approximate

Benjamin and Mosiah

Benjamin	190 B.C. born son of Mosiah ₁	Omni 1:23
	140 B.C. becomes record keeper	Omni 1:25
	121 B.C. dies 69 years old	Mosiah 6:5
Mosiah₂	154 B.C. born son of Benjamin	Mosiah 6:4
	91 B.C. dies about 63 years old	Mosiah 29:46

Lineage of Alma₁

Alma₁	174 B.C. born a descendant of Nephi	Mosiah 17:2
	149 B.C. "young man" 25 years old; Abinadi martyred	Mosiah 17:2, 20
	120 B.C. becomes high priest over church in Zarahemla	Mosiah 23:16
	91 B.C. dies about 83 years old	Mosiah 29:47
Alma₂	126 B.C. born son of Alma ₁	Mosiah 27:8
	91 B.C. becomes record keeper	Mosiah 29:42
	73 B.C. departs out of land; assumed to have been translated	Alma 45:18, 19
Helaman₂	97 B.C. born son of Alma ₂	Alma 36:3
	73 B.C. becomes high priest	Alma 45:20
	64 B.C. leads 2,000 Ammonite warriors; 33 years old	Alma 53:22
	57 B.C. dies about 40 years old	Alma 62:52
Shiblon	95 B.C. born son of Alma ₂ , brother of Helaman ₂	Alma 63:1
	57 B.C. becomes record keeper	Alma 63:1
	53 B.C. dies about 42 years old	Alma 63:13
Helaman₃	76 B.C. born son of Helaman ₂	Helaman 2:2
	53 B.C. becomes record keeper	Helaman 2:2
	39 B.C. dies about 37 years old	Helaman 3:37
Nephi₂	54 B.C. born son of Helaman ₃	Helaman 3:37
	A.D. 1 departs out of land	3 Nephi 1:3
	A.D. 13 dies about 67 years old	

Nephi₃	30 B.C. born son of Nephi ₂	3 Nephi 1:1
	A.D. 1 becomes record keeper	3 Nephi 1:1
	A.D. 34 one of 12 disciples	3 Nephi 12:1
	A.D. 60 dies about 90 years old	
	A.D. 100 all but 3 disciples have passed away	4 Nephi 1:14
Nephi₄	A.D. 50 born son of Nephi ₃	
Amos₁	A.D. 90 born son of Nephi ₄	
	A.D. 110 becomes record keeper for 84 years	4 Nephi 1:19
	A.D. 194 dies about 104 years old	4 Nephi 1:21
Amos₂	A.D. 174 born son of Amos ₁	
	A.D. 194 becomes record keeper	4 Nephi 1:21
	A.D. 305 dies about 131 years old	4 Nephi 1:47
Ammaron	A.D. 190 born son of Amos, brother of Amos ₂	
	A.D. 305 becomes record keeper	4 Nephi 1:48
	A.D. 320 dies about 130 years old	Mormon 1:5

Mormon and Moroni

Mormon₂	A.D. 311 born	Mormon 1:2
	A.D. 321 told by Ammaron that at age 24 he would become record keeper	Mormon 1:2
	A.D. 326 visited by Lord; leads Nephite armies	Mormon 1:15
	A.D. 335 becomes record keeper	Mormon 2:18
	A.D. 385 delivered plates to Moroni; buried others in hill Cumorah	Mormon 8:1
	A.D. 401 dies about 90 years old at hands of Lamanites	Mormon 8:3
Moroni₂	A.D. 360 born son of Mormon ₂	Mormon 8:1
	A.D. 385 becomes record keeper	Mormon 8:1
	A.D. 421 "soon go to rest," about 61 years old	Moroni 10:34