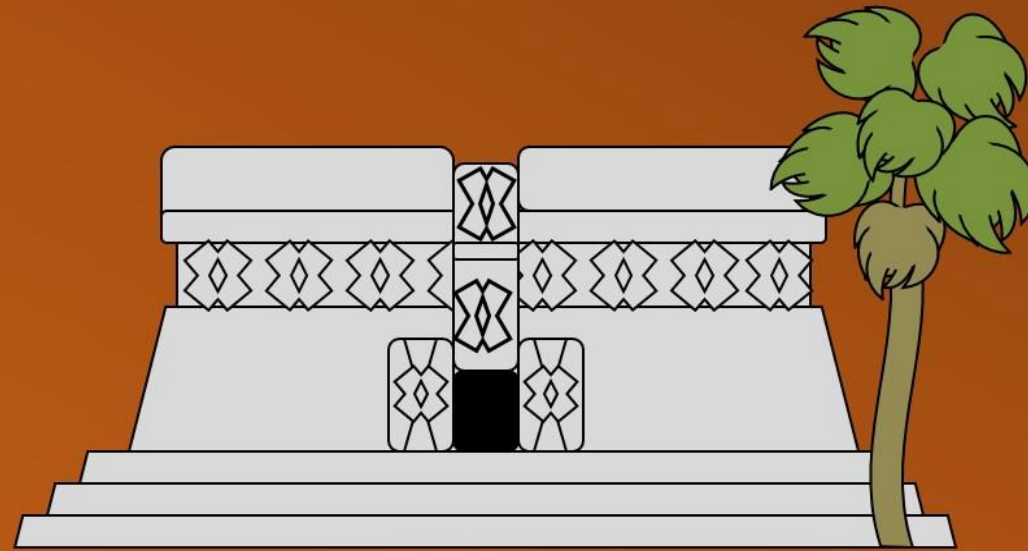


Zeniff Leaves Zarahemla Mosiah 9-10

Lesson 57

Suggested Hymn:
#68 A Mighty
Fortress Is Our God



Zeniff

He was taught in all the language of the Nephites and knew of the Land of Nephi where their ancestors first landed

During King Benjamin's reign Zeniff led a group of Nephites from Zarahemla to settle among the Lamanites in the land of Nephi

He was a spy and King Laman ordered that his life be taken

After surviving, Zeniff returned to Zarahemla and recruited more people to return to the Land of Nephi

He was a man who wanted something so intensely that he failed to see the possible consequences of his desires

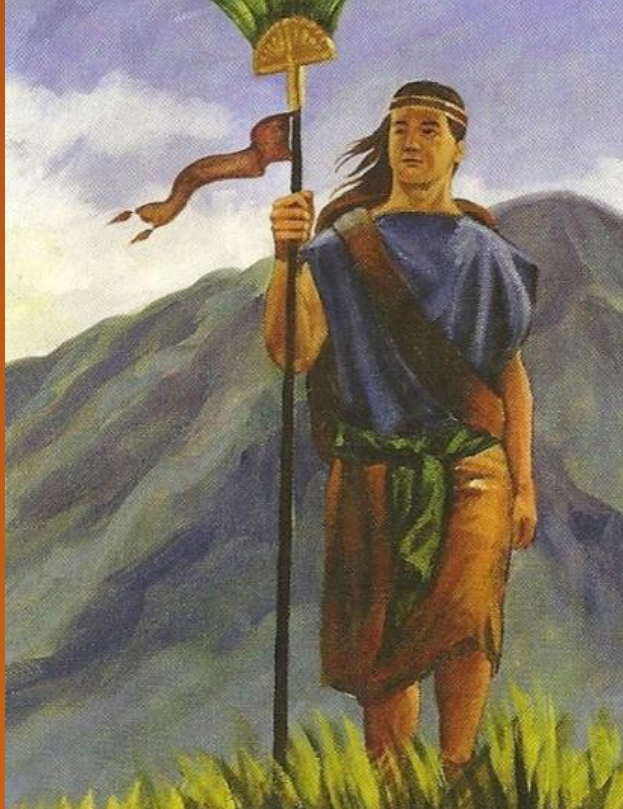
He made a treaty with the Lamanites

The king of the Lamanites allowed Zeniff's people to settle among them because he secretly planned to bring them into bondage



Overzealous

To be overly eager or excessively interested in the pursuit of something



James H. Fullmer

“There is no suggestion in the scriptural text that the Lord approved of this venture.

The spirit was bad among those in the first group attempting to recolonize the land.

An attempt was made to kill Zeniff.

Zeniff suggested that they make a treaty with the Lamanites rather than attack and kill them.

This divided colonizers into two warring factions and resulted in the death of the greater part of their people.

JFM and RLM

Being overzealous and slow to remember the Lord can lead us to make choices that result in negative consequences

Slow to Remember the Lord

Zeniff returns to Zarahemla to recruit another group

These, we are told “were smitten with famine and sore affliction” because they were slow to remember God, and they and their families were to know little but bondage, death, and difficulty until the time of their repentance and their return to the land of Zarahemla.



Laman

He was king of the Lamanites at the time Zeniff and his followers came up (southward) from Zarahemla around 200 BC

He allowed Zeniff permission to occupy the territory by covenant (Mosiah 9:6)

He held a secret agenda

His people were lazy and idolatrous (Mosiah 9:12)

After 12 years and Zeniff's people were prosperous, Laman broke his covenant and stirred up his people to war

He died around 178 BC and his son, also named Laman, succeeded him



Possession of Land

“And it came to pass that I went again with four of my men into the city, in unto the king, that I might know of the disposition of the king, and that I might know if I might go in with my people and possess the land in peace.”



James H. Fullmer

The King allows Zeniff and his people to possess the land of Lehi-Nephi and the land of Shilom

Overly Eager

What are the dangers of being overly eager when making decisions?

What are the dangers of making decisions without counseling with the Lord?

Lamanites Leave Nephites Build

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



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



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

Neas and sheum: These two grains found in Peru and Ecuador, are indigenous to the region and have been cultivated there for more than 4,000 years, and today are considered nutritionally as supergrains.

Twelve Years of Prosperity

Zeniff's people had grown so prosperous that the Lamanite king grew nervous that he wouldn't be able to bring them into bondage, so he "began to stir up his people that they should contend with [Zeniff's] people.



Lamanites Desire What Nephites Have

Zeniff calls the Lamanites: Lazy and idolatrous

They desired the flocks and food the Nephites had which started in warring

In the 13th year of Zeniff's reign when they were watering and feeding their flocks and tilling their land, the Lamanites came upon them and began to kill them and take their flocks and corn

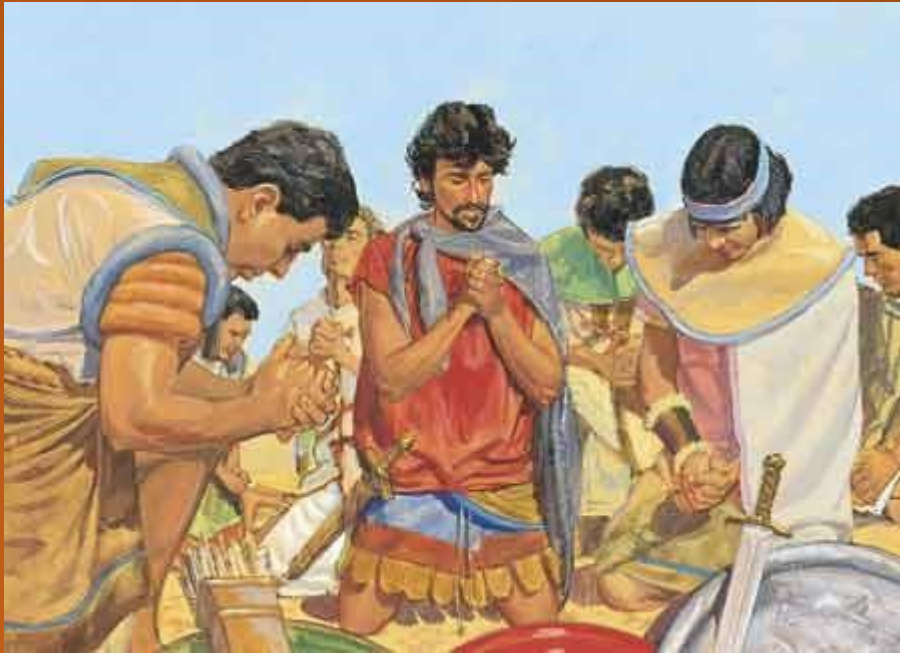
The people fled to Zeniff for protection

Zeniff armed them with bows, arrows, swords, and cimeters (all manner of weapons) and they went to battle



A Key to Victory

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



The Lord heard their prayers

The Nephites were able to drive the Lamanites back out of their land

They slayed 3,043

Zeniff helped to bury their dead--279

**If we pray
and go forth
in faith, we
can face our
challenges in
the strength
of the Lord**



“Blessings require some effort on our part before we can obtain them, and prayer, as ‘a form of work, ... is an appointed means for obtaining the highest of all blessings’

We press forward and persevere in the consecrated work of prayer, after we say ‘amen,’ by acting upon the things we have expressed to Heavenly Father”

David A. Bednar

Establishing the Kingdom

Not the Kingdom of God but the community being reestablished by Zeniff in the Land of Lehi-Nephi
Setting guards

Inherit the Land—possessed the land 22 years

Clothed in nakedness—Zeniff's people clothed themselves in by their own industry; spinning cloth

Laman's people, who were indolent and idle, ran naked



2nd War Against Zeniff's People

Laman dies and his son, Laman reigned in his stead

Lamanites had all manner of weapons, their heads shaved, and naked with a girdle about their loins

Zeniff hides the women and children in the wilderness

Zeniff prepares the old men (who were able) and the young men to gather together to battle

Zeniff also battles and is of old age

Ranks—according to age



They went up with the
strength of the Lord

Laman, son of King Laman

Laman was his father when Zeniff's Nephite colony was among the Lamanites at its peak of prosperity

He went up to do battle but his forces were driven out by the Nephites

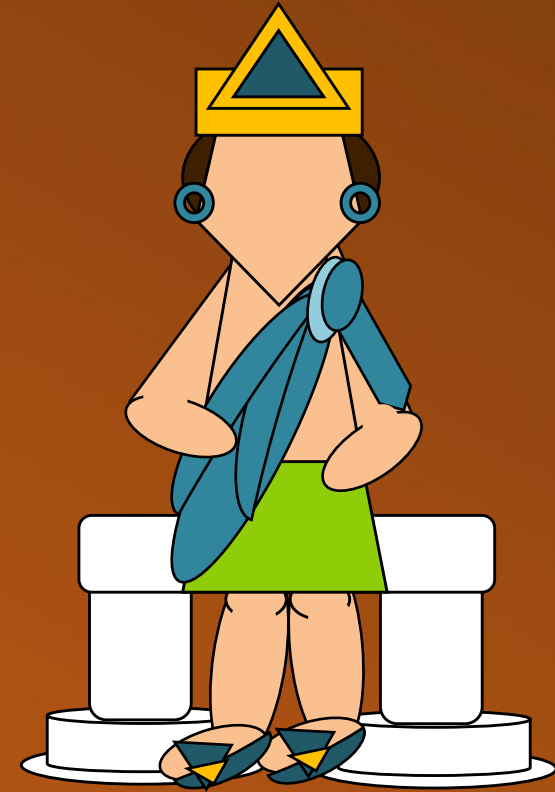
Zeniff began to get old and the kingdom was conferred upon his son, Noah around 160 BC

Noah was wicked and caused that the Nephites be put in bondage and oppression with the Lamanites

Laman brought his forces against the Nephites again after the death of Noah, his son Limhi (who was righteous)

Laman was wounded in the battle, and left for dead

The Nephites bound up his wounds...the two sides returned in peace to their own lands



Lamanite's Wroth

They knew nothing about the Lord

They depended on their own strength

They were wild, ferocious, blood-thirsty people

Believed in their own traditions



Lamanite perspective against the Nephites:

1. They had been wrongly deprived of their inheritance in Jerusalem
2. They had been wronged in transit to the New World and during the initial settlement period when Nephi wrested from them their right to leadership
3. They had been robbed of the plates of brass
Who's Who



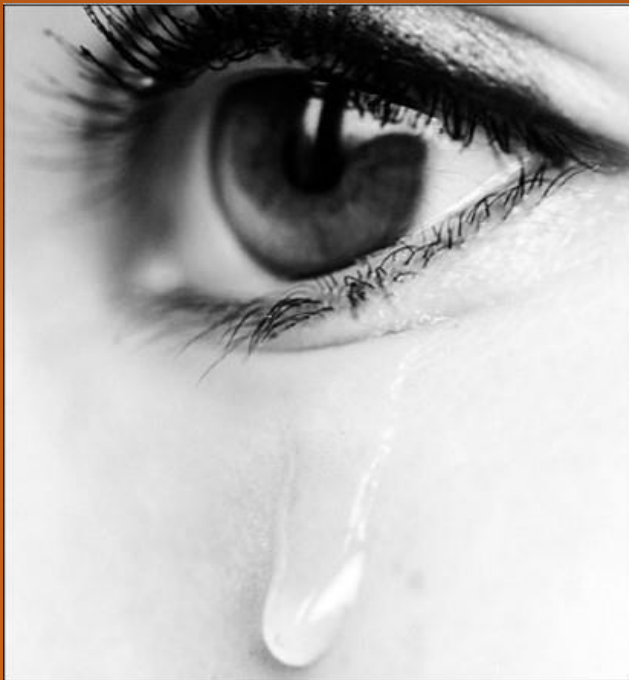
They taught their children to hate the Nephites...do all they can do to destroy them

Those Who Take Offense

As a stake president Elder Bednar would visit people who had stopped coming to church because they had taken offense at the words or actions of another person.



"As we talked, eyes often were moist with tears as these good people recalled the confirming witness of the Holy Ghost and described their prior spiritual experiences. ... However, they were not presently participating in Church activities and meetings.



"And then I would say something like this. 'Let me make sure I understand what has happened to you. Because someone at church offended you, you have not been blessed by the ordinance of the sacrament. You have withdrawn yourself from the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost.

Because someone at church offended you, you have cut yourself off from priesthood ordinances and the holy temple. You have discontinued your opportunity to serve others and to learn and grow. And you are leaving barriers that will impede the spiritual progress of your children, your children's children, and the generations that will follow."

Whom does it hurt when we are angry or refuse to forgive?

How can a person's anger affect his or her family, now and in the future?



“If you feel you have been wronged—by anyone (a family member, a friend, another member of the Church, a Church leader, a business associate) or by anything (the death of a loved one, health problems, a financial reversal, abuse, addictions)—deal with the matter directly and with all the strength you have. ... And, without delay, turn to the Lord. Exercise all of the faith you have in Him. Let Him share your burden. Allow His grace to lighten your load. ... Never let an earthly circumstance disable you spiritually.”

Donald L. Hallstrom



“If you feel you have been wronged, **be ready to forgive.** If there is, for some reason, an unpleasant memory, let it go. Where necessary, talk to your bishop; talk to your stake president. “To all, but especially to those who some day will be great-grandfathers and great-grandmothers, your eternal blessings and those of your posterity are far more important than any prideful reason which would deny you and so many others of such important blessings.”

Harold G. Hillam

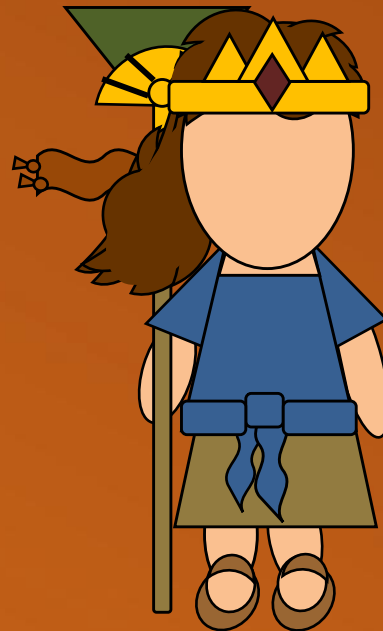
Victory Once Again

They did drive the Lamanites out of their land

They slew a great many of them—so many that they did not number them

They returned to their land and began to take care of their flocks and till their ground

Zeniff is old and confers the kingdom upon one of his sons (Noah)



Sources:

The Book of Mormon Who's Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg 101-102, 195

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol. 2 pg. 194

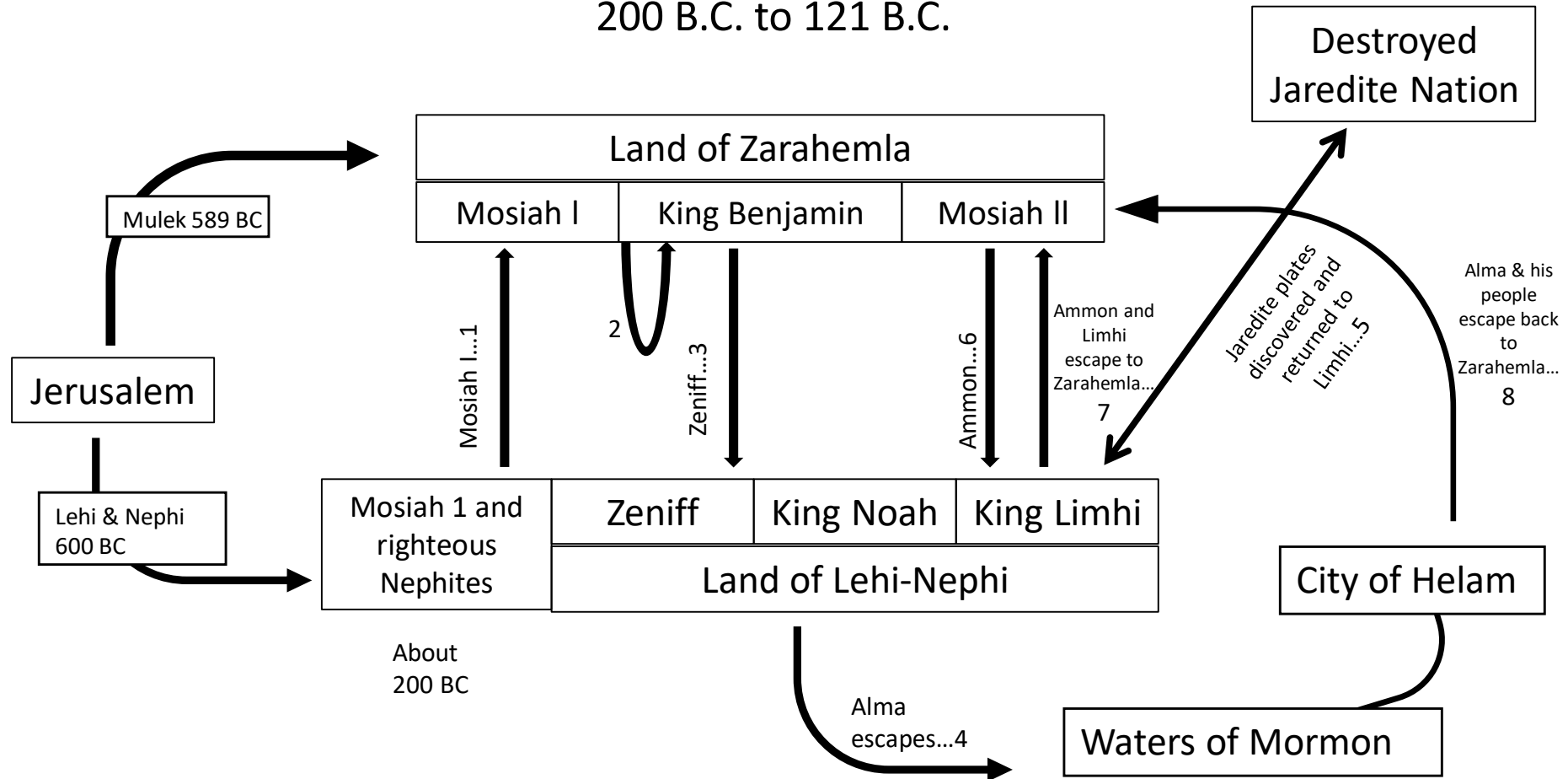
David A. Bednar, "Ask in Faith," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2008, 95;
"And Nothing Shall Offend Them," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2006, 89

Donald L. Hallstrom ("Turn to the Lord," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2010, 80).

Harold G. Hillam, "The Worth of Souls," *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2005, 32

	ZENIFF AND HIS PEOPLE	THE LAMANITES		ZENIFF AND HIS PEOPLE	THE LAMANITES
What did the people do to prepare?	Mosiah 9:14–16; 10:1–2, 7, 9–10 (They armed themselves and went to battle.)	Mosiah 10:6–8 (They armed themselves and went to battle.)	What did the people do to prepare?	Mosiah 9:14–16; 10:1–2, 7, 9–10 (They armed themselves and went to battle.)	Mosiah 10:6–8 (They armed themselves and went to battle.)
What did they do to put their trust in the Lord?	Mosiah 9:17 (They prayed and remembered that the Lord had delivered their ancestors.)	Mosiah 10:11 (Nothing. They relied on their own strength.)	What did they do to put their trust in the Lord?	Mosiah 9:17 (They prayed and remembered that the Lord had delivered their ancestors.)	Mosiah 10:11 (Nothing. They relied on their own strength.)
What was the result?	Mosiah 9:18; 10:20 (The Lord strengthened them, and they were successful in driving the Lamanites out of their land.)	Mosiah 10:19–20 (The Lamanites were driven from the land with a great slaughter.)	What was the result?	Mosiah 9:18; 10:20 (The Lord strengthened them, and they were successful in driving the Lamanites out of their land.)	Mosiah 10:19–20 (The Lamanites were driven from the land with a great slaughter.)

The Wandering Nephites 200 B.C. to 121 B.C.



1. Mosiah I leads the few remaining righteous Nephites from the original land settled by Lehi to the Land of Zarahemla (Omni 1:3)
2. (About 200 BC ill fated expedition to return to Lehi-Nephi. Contention and infighting. All slain in the wilderness except 50 who return to Zarahemla (Omni 1:28) (Mosiah 9:1-3)
3. Zeniff leads a second expedition (abt. 200 BC) to Lehi-Nephi and settles there with the permission of King Laman (Mosiah 9: 3-10)
4. (about 148 BC) Alma flees King Noah to the Waters of Mormon (Mosiah 17 and 18)
5. (about 121 BC) King Limhi sends expedition of 43 men to find Zarahemla in hopes of escaping Lamanite bondage. They find remnants of Jaredites and 24 gold plates and return to Land of Lehi-Nephi (Mosiah 6: 7-8)
6. (About 121 BC) Ammon's expedition (16 "Strong Men") to find Zeniff's colony (Mosiah 7)
7. (About 121-120 BC) King Limhi's people get the Lamanites drunk and escape back to Zarahemla (Mosiah 22)
8. (Between 145 and 121 BC) Alma and his people escape Lamanites and return to Zarahemla (Mosiah 24)