

Lesson 105

Suggested Hymn:  
#124 Be Still My Soul

# Men of War

Alma 59-63



# The Loss of a City



“And now, when Moroni saw that the city of Nephihah was lost he was exceedingly sorrowful, and began to doubt, because of the wickedness of the people, whether they should not fall into the hands of their brethren.”

It was easier to keep the city from falling into the hands of the Lamanites than to retake it from them

# Keeping Your Faith



It is easier and better to remain faithful than it is to return to the faith after going astray



Why is staying faithful in the Church easier than returning to the Church after a period of being less active?

Why is it easier to maintain a testimony than it is to regain a testimony after falling away?

# Trials of Miscommunication

Captain Moroni rejoiced in Helaman's success in regaining some of the Nephite cities that had been lost to the Lamanites.

However, when he learned that the city of Nephihah had been captured by the Lamanites, he was angry at the government for neglecting to send reinforcements.



In a letter to Pahoran, the chief judge, he lamented the suffering of the righteous and rebuked Pahoran for not supporting the cause of freedom.

# Moroni's Passionate Complaints

We have suffered:

Hunger, thirst, fatigue, and all  
manner of afflictions



Our people have been slaughtered

The Lamanites are upon us

The king-men fight among us

We have looked to your government  
for protection:  
But you are slothful and idle  
You are “traitors to your country”

We ask you to send help:  
Provisions  
Men

**We ask you to defend your freedoms**

# Understanding

Unknown to Moroni, Pahoran had fled to the land of Gideon because of the rebellion of the Nephite king-men.



Pahoran did not take offense at Moroni's chastisement; rather, he rejoiced in Moroni's love of liberty.



We can choose to not be  
offended by the words and  
actions of others.

We should avoid making  
unkind judgments about  
others



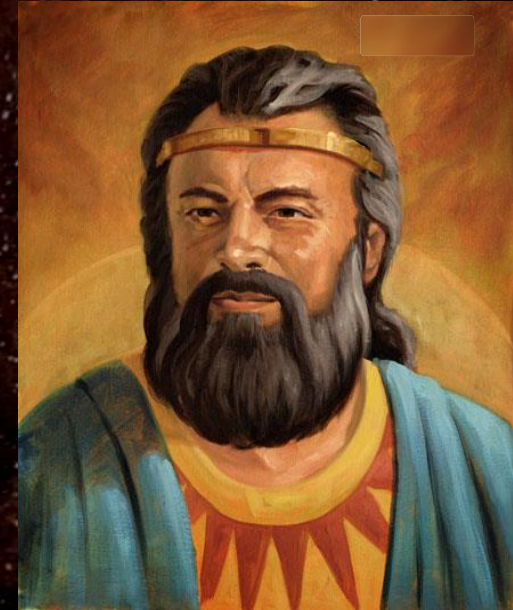
When we unite in  
righteousness with others,  
we are stronger in our  
battles against evil.



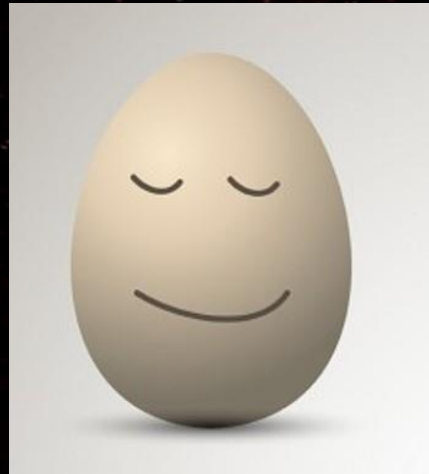
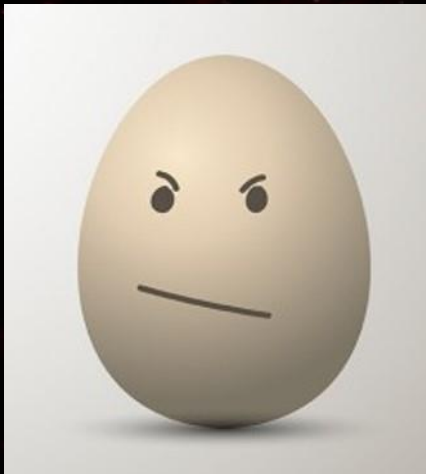
How can we choose not  
to be offended?



“Pahoran might easily have resented Moroni and his message, but he chose not to take offense. ...  
“One of the greatest indicators of our own spiritual maturity is revealed in how we respond to the weaknesses, the inexperience, and the potentially offensive actions of others. A thing, an event, or an expression may be offensive, but you and I can choose not to be offended—and to say with Pahoran, ‘it mattereth not.’ ...



James H. Fullmer



“... If a person says or does something that we consider offensive, our first obligation is to refuse to take offense and then communicate privately, honestly, and directly with that individual.

Such an approach invites inspiration from the Holy Ghost and permits misperceptions to be clarified and true intent to be understood.”

David A. Bednar



In times of adversity, some people humble themselves before God while others become hardened

"A news account quoted two different persons who had suffered the same tragedy and received the same blessing: each of their homes had been totally destroyed, but each of their family members had been spared death or injury.



One said that this tragedy had destroyed his faith; how, he asked, could God allow this to happen? The other said that the experience had strengthened his faith. God had been good to him, he said. Though the family's home and possessions were lost, their lives were spared and they could rebuild the home. ... The gift of moral agency empowers each of us to choose how we will act when we suffer adversity"

Dallin H. Oaks

# Pahoran's Epistle

I do not 'joy' in your afflictions

The king-men have risen against me and driven the freemen out

They have sought to take the judgment seat and have a king—Tyranny--Pachus

The king wants to ally with the Lamanites— which eventually we would lose our lands and come into bondage

I have been driven out of Zarahemla and fled to Gideon

I am not angry with your words

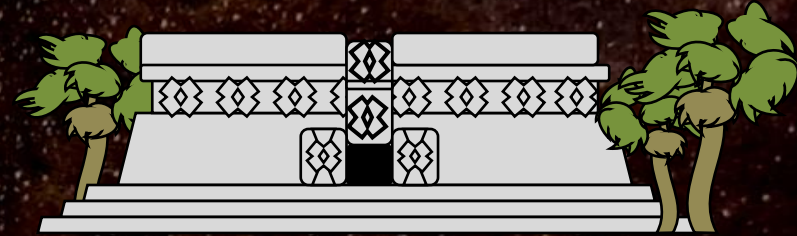
“God made us free”

**We need to resist evil with  
our swords**



# The Need to Take Possession of Zarahemla

Pahoran asks Moroni to leave  
Lehi and Teancum in charge  
and come to aid him



“And we will take possession of the city of  
Zarahemla, that we may obtain more food to send  
forth unto Lehi and Teancum; yea, we will go forth  
against them in the strength of the Lord, and we  
will put an end to this great iniquity.”



“See that ye strengthen Lehi and Teancum in  
the Lord; tell them to fear not, for God will  
deliver them, yea, and also all those who stand  
fast in that liberty wherewith God hath made  
them free. And now I close mine epistle to my  
beloved brother, Moroni.”

# Renewed Vigor

Captain Moroni brought a portion of his army to help Pahoran overthrow the king-men in Zarahemla.

Then, with their united army and the help of other Nephite forces, Moroni and Pahoran retook the remaining cities that had been lost to the Lamanites.

They drove the Lamanites from the land and established peace among the people.



“And it came to pass that Moroni and Pahoran went down with their armies into the land of Zarahemla, and went forth against the city, and did meet the men of Pachus, insomuch that they did come to battle.

And behold, Pachus was slain and his men were taken prisoners, and Pahoran was restored to his judgment-seat.”

# Pachus

He was the lead of the Nephite dissenters who revolted against Pahoran—king for a time

He drove the “freemen” from Zarahemla

Moroni and Pahoran combined their forces and invaded Zarahemla and killed Pachas and placed his followers under arrest

Those dissenters who denied having freedom were executed according to the law (Alma 62:9-10)



# The Law

*“And the men of Pachus received their trial, according to the law, and also those king-men who had been taken and cast into prison; and they were executed according to the law; yea, those men of Pachus and those king-men, whosoever would not take up arms in the defense of their country, but would fight against it, were put to death.*

*And thus it became expedient that this law should be strictly observed for the safety of their country; yea, and whosoever was found denying their freedom was speedily executed according to the law.”*



**The end of the 30<sup>th</sup> Year  
of the Reign of the Judges**

# Combined Forces

Then, with their united army and the help of other Nephite forces, Moroni and Pahoran retook the remaining cities that had been lost to the Lamanites.

Some Lamanites joined with the People of Ammon.

They went to the land of Moroni and camped around the borders.



## The Fate of Teancum

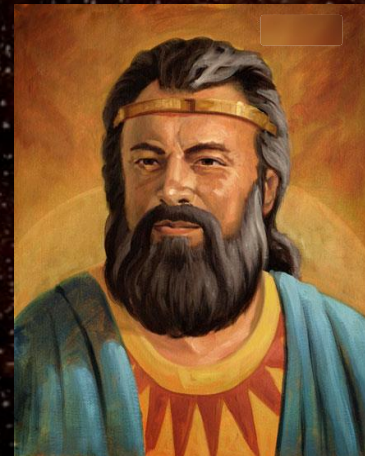
“...he did cast a javelin at him (Ammoron), which did pierce him near the heart. But behold, the king did awaken his servants before he died, insomuch that they did pursue Teancum, and slew him.”



They drove the Lamanites from the land and established peace among the people

# What Happened To...

And Moroni yielded up the command of his armies into the hands of his son, whose name was Moronihah; and he retired to his own house that he might spend the remainder of his days in peace.



And Pahoran did return to his judgment-seat; and Helaman did take upon him again to preach unto the people the word of God; for because of so many wars and contentions it had become expedient that a regulation should be made again in the church.

Therefore, Helaman and his brethren went forth, and did declare the word of God with much power unto the convincing of many people of their wickedness, which did cause them to repent of their sins and to be baptized unto the Lord their God.

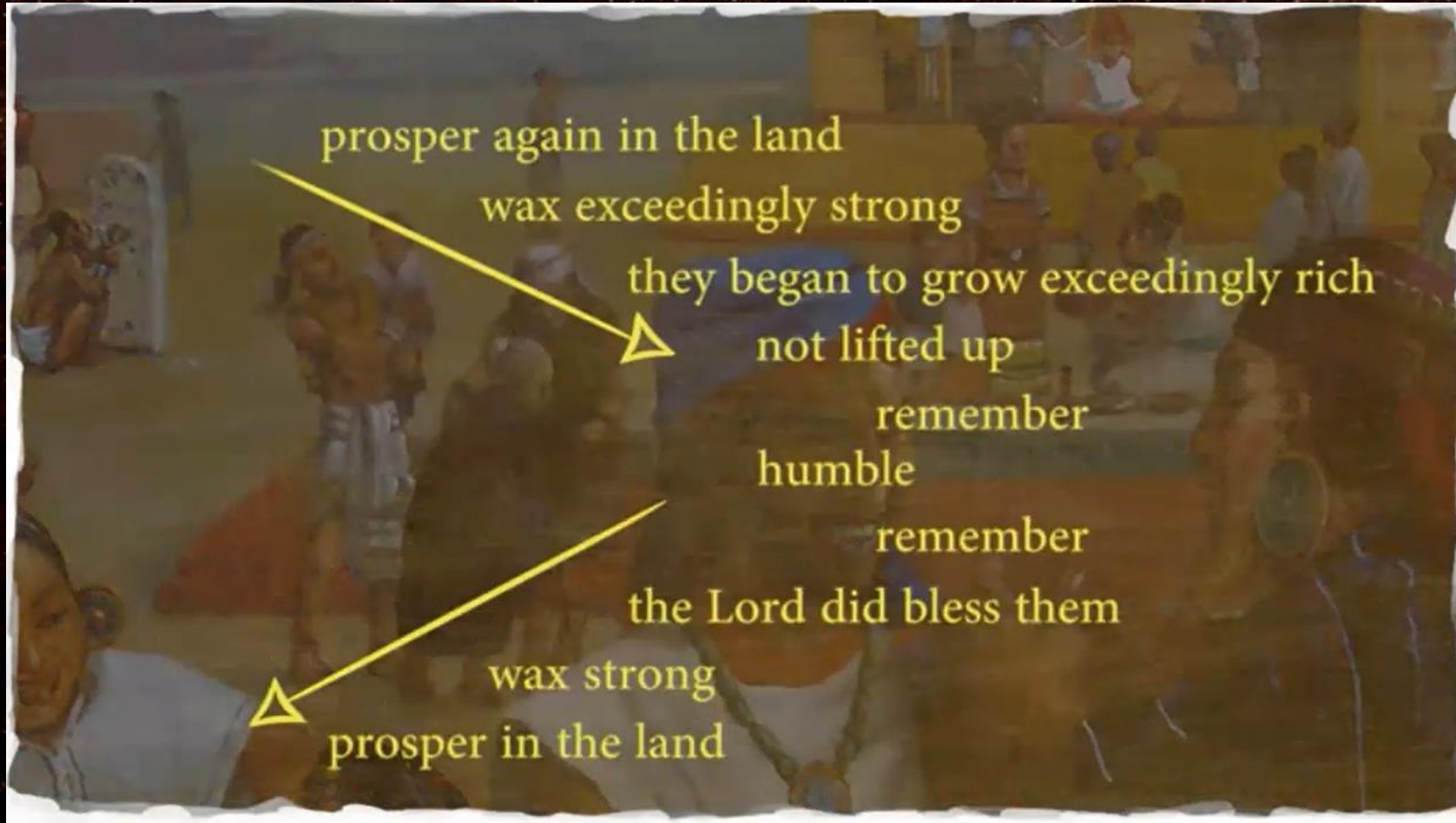
**He died in the 35<sup>th</sup> year of the Reign of the Judges**



And it came to pass that they did establish again the church of God, throughout all the land.



# Prosper in the Land



prosper again in the land

wax exceedingly strong

they began to grow exceedingly rich

not lifted up

remember

humble

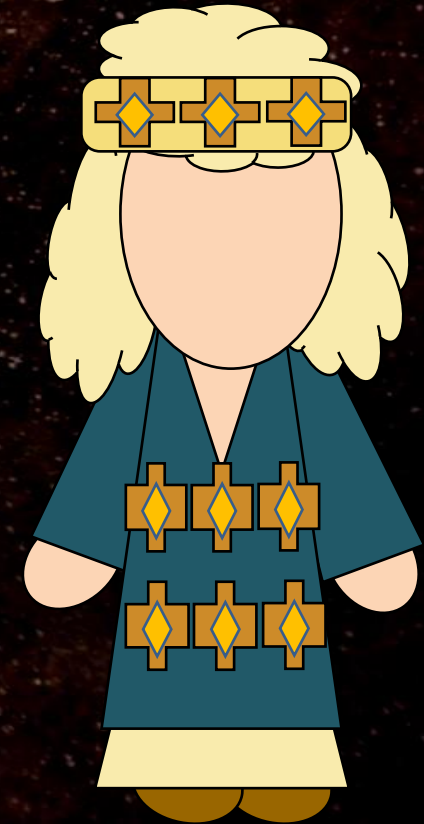
remember

the Lord did bless them

wax strong

prosper in the land

# Alma to Helaman then to Shiblon

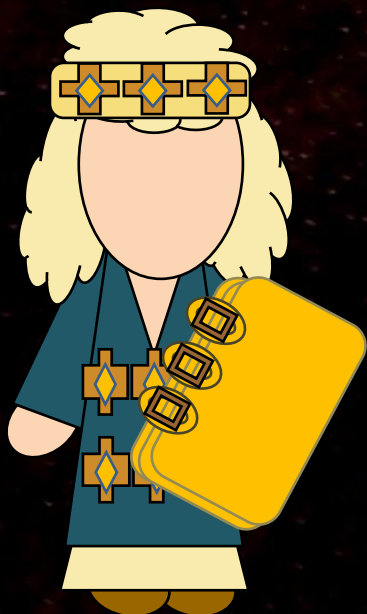


# Migrating Northward

Many Nephites started to migrate northward, by land and by sea.

Shiblon conferred the sacred records to Helaman.

Captain Moroni died, and his son Moronihah led an army that drove back another Lamanite attack.



# Moronihah

He was the son of Captain Moroni

He succeeded his father as commander of the Nephite armed forces around 60 BC

He received superior training from his father—in strategy, leadership, and love of God and liberty.

His initial battle came when the Lamanites under the Nephite dissenter Coriantumr succeeded in overpowering the capital city of Zarahemla in the year 51 BC

He and Lehi were able to repel the Lamanites and expel them from the land, Coriantumr was killed during this time

In 34 BC , again the dissenters and the Lamanites started to battle and forced Moronihah upward toward Bountiful

The Nephites were able to regain half of their cities

He and the sons of Helaman, Nephi and Lehi preached repentance to the people---there was a decline of spirituality and faith among the Nephites



# Hagoth

He was a Nephite who migrated with 4,400 men women and children north around 56 BC

He built a large ship on the borders of the land Bountiful by the land Desolation and launched it forth into the west sea

Many Nephites set sail northward on this ship, carrying abundant provisions.

1 year later he built other ships and carried many more people northward but was not heard from again.

It is not clear that he was among the passengers of the ships he built



# Hagoth and His Descendant

Latter-day prophets have said that Hagoth's people settled on the islands that are now known as New Zealand.

To Saints in New Zealand:

"You brothers and sisters from New Zealand, I want you to know that you are from the people of Hagoth"

Joseph F. Smith

In the dedicatory prayer for the Hamilton New Zealand Temple: "We express gratitude that to these fertile Islands Thou didst guide descendants of Father Lehi, and hast enabled them to prosper"

President David O. McKay

"It is reasonable to conclude that Hagoth and his associates were about nineteen centuries on the islands, from about 55 B.C. to 1854 before the gospel began to reach them. They had lost all the plain and precious things which the Savior brought to the earth, for they were likely on the islands when the Christ was born in Jerusalem."

President Spencer W. Kimball



# The End of the Account of Alma

39<sup>th</sup> Year of the  
Reign of the Judges

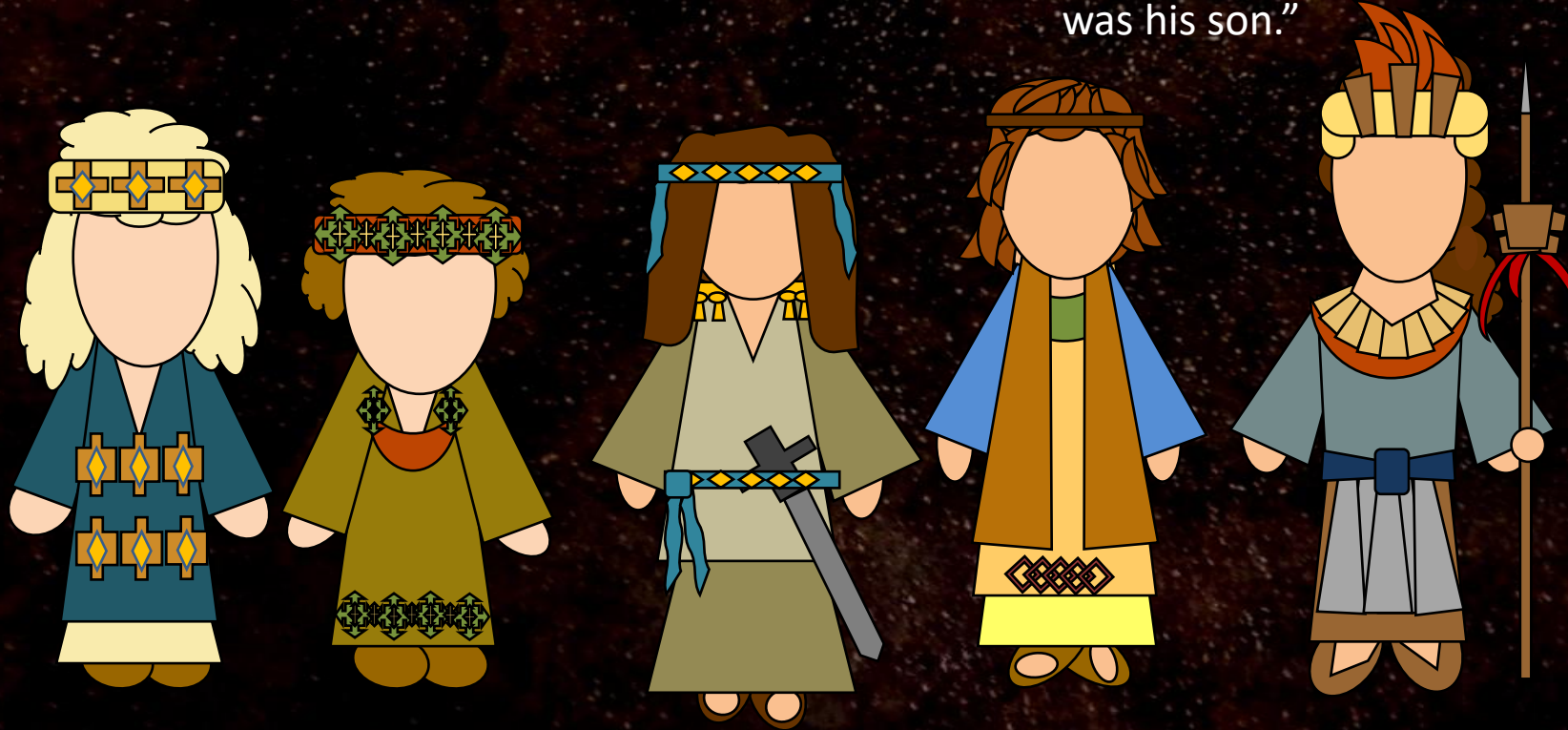
Many people went forth into the land northward.

Shiblon died

Corianton had gone northward also in a ship carrying provisions

There were numerous wars against the people of Moronihah

“And thus ended the account of Alma, and Helaman his son, and also Shiblon, who was his son.”



## Sources:

Choose Not to Be Offended (2:31)

Our Own Storehouse of Faith (2:09)



Book of Mormon Who's Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 61, 129-130, 152-153

David A. Bednar, "And Nothing Shall Offend Them," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2006, 91, 92

Dallin H. Oaks, "Adversity," *Ensign*, July 1998, 8.

Artist: James H. Fullmer

Joseph F. Smith about New Zealand (quoted by Spencer W. Kimball in Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, vol. 3 [1991], 329).

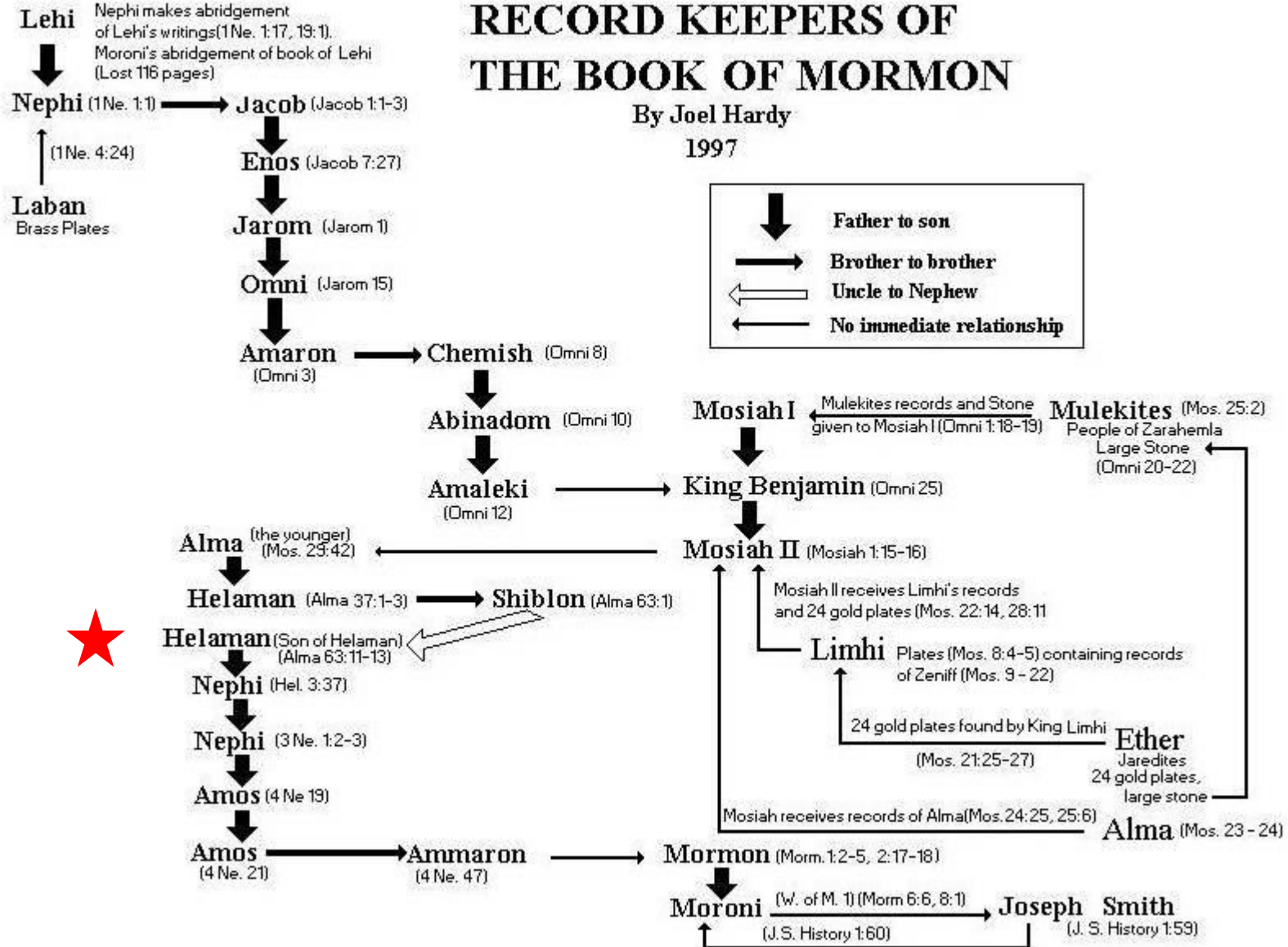
David O. McKay ("Dedicatory Prayer Delivered by Pres. McKay at New Zealand Temple," *Church News*, May 10, 1958, 2).

President Spencer W. Kimball (Temple View Area Conference Report, February 1976, 3; quoted in Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, vol. 3, 329).



# RECORD KEEPERS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON

By Joel Hardy  
1997



**Referring to Alma 62:39–41**, President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught:

“The same testing in troubled times can have quite opposite effects on individuals. ...

“Surely you know some whose lives have been filled with adversity who have been mellowed and strengthened and refined by it, while others have come away from the same test bitter and blistered and unhappy” (“The Mystery of Life,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1983, 18).

Elder Dallin H. Oaks of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained that we choose how we will respond to adversity:

“Surely these great adversities are not without some eternal purpose or effect. They can turn our hearts to God. ... Even as adversities inflict mortal hardships, they can also be the means of leading men and women to eternal blessings.

“Such large-scale adversities as natural disasters and wars seem to be inherent in the mortal experience. We cannot entirely prevent them, but we can determine how we will react to them. For example, the adversities of war and military service, which have been the spiritual destruction of some, have been the spiritual awakening of others. The Book of Mormon describes the contrast:

“‘But behold, because of the exceedingly great length of the war between the Nephites and the Lamanites many had become hardened, because of the exceedingly great length of the war; and many were softened because of their afflictions, insomuch that they did humble themselves before God, even in the depth of humility’ (Alma 62:41).

“I read of a similar contrast after the devastating hurricane that destroyed thousands of homes in Florida some years ago. A news account quoted two different persons who had suffered the same tragedy and received the same blessing: each of their homes had been totally destroyed, but each of their family members had been spared death or injury. One said that this tragedy had destroyed his faith; how, he asked, could God allow this to happen? The other said that the experience had strengthened his faith. God had been good to him, he said. Though the family’s home and possessions were lost, their lives were spared and they could rebuild the home. For one, the glass was half empty. For the other, the glass was half full. The gift of moral agency empowers each of us to choose how we will act when we suffer adversity” (“Adversity,” *Ensign*, July 1998, 7–8).

## Dedication of Hamilton New Zealand Temple:

“We express gratitude that to these fertile Islands Thou didst guide descendants of Father Lehi, and hast enabled them to prosper” (David O. McKay, “Dedicatory Prayer Delivered by Pres. McKay at New Zealand Temple,” *Church News*, May 10, 1958, 2).

