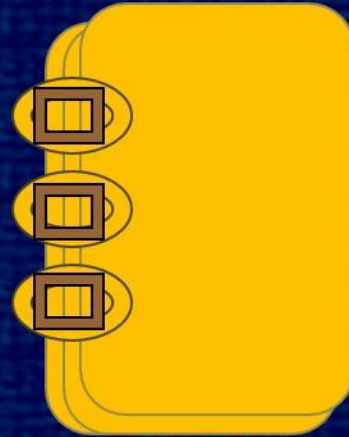


Lesson 94

Suggested Hymn:
#277 As I Search
The Holy Scriptures

HELAMMAN AND THE SACRED RECORDS ALMA 37

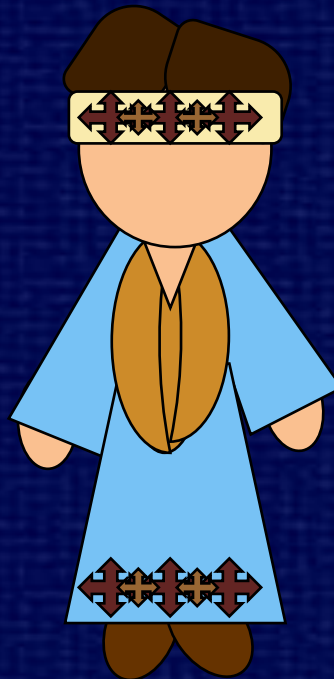


The Sacred Records

Alma's successor in the
judgment seat refused
to assume responsibility
for the sacred records
(Alma 50:37-38)



Alma 37:1



Nephihah



Helaman

Instructions to Helaman

Keep them
(scriptures) according
to as I have done

For a wise
purpose

Records of
Holy scriptures

They must retain
their brightness

Containing the
mysteries of God



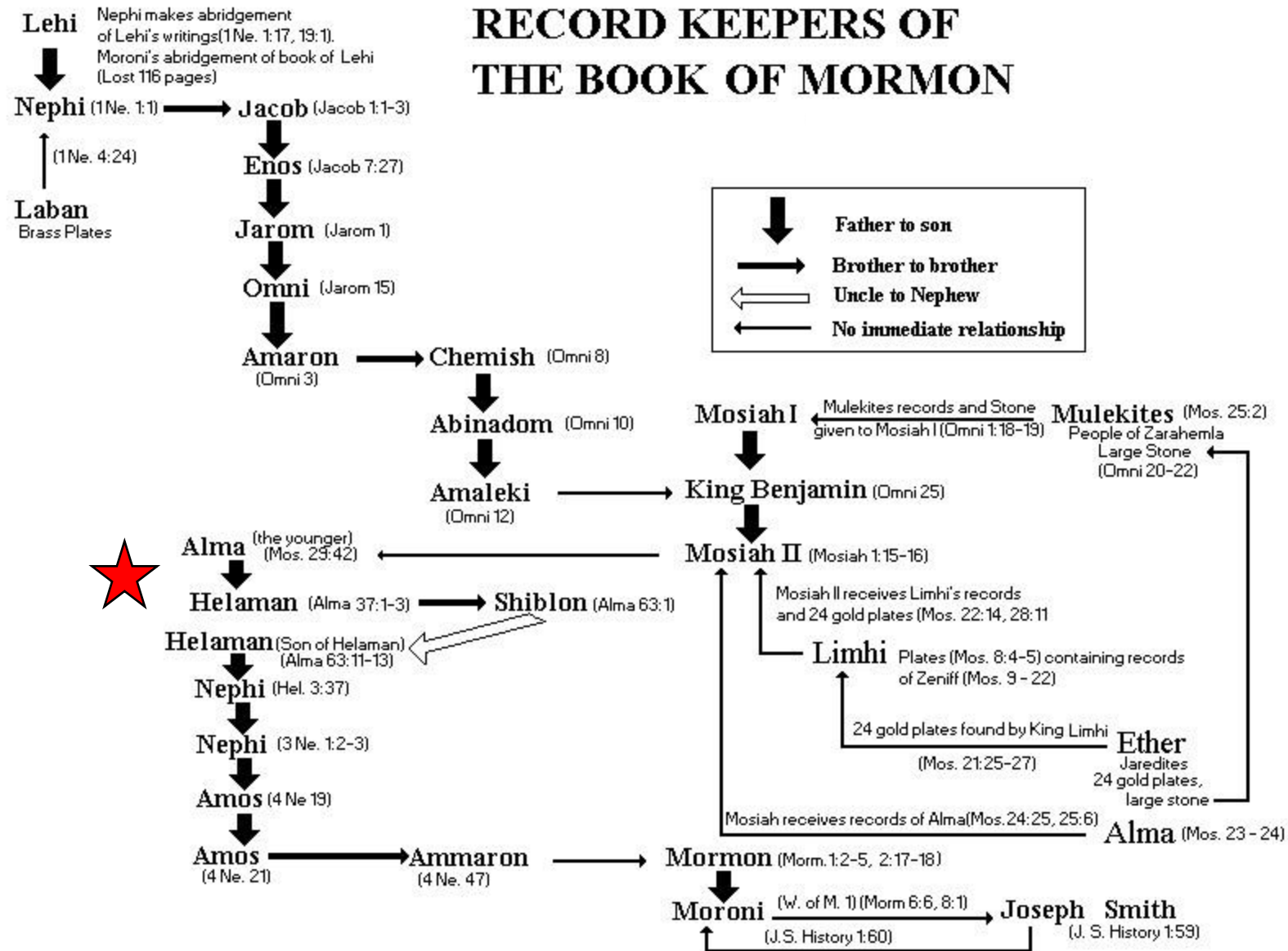
Genealogy of the
forefathers—even
the beginning

Prophecies of
the forefathers

Kept and preserved until
they go forth to every
nation, kindred, tongue,
and people

Handed down
from generation to
generation

RECORD KEEPERS OF THE BOOK OF MORMON



Joel Hardy

Small and Simple Things

“...our purposes of the Lord in our personal lives generally are fulfilled through the small and simple things, and not the momentous and spectacular.”
M. Russell Ballard

“Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.”
D&C 63:33



By small and simple things are great things brought to pass. The Lord works by very small means to bring about the salvation of many souls

“Many years ago I worked for a railroad in the central offices in Denver. I was in charge of what is called head-end traffic.

That was in the days when nearly everyone rode passenger trains.

One morning I received a call from my counterpart in Newark, New Jersey. He said, ‘Train number such-and-such has arrived, but it has no baggage car. Somewhere, 300 passengers have lost their baggage, and they are mad.’



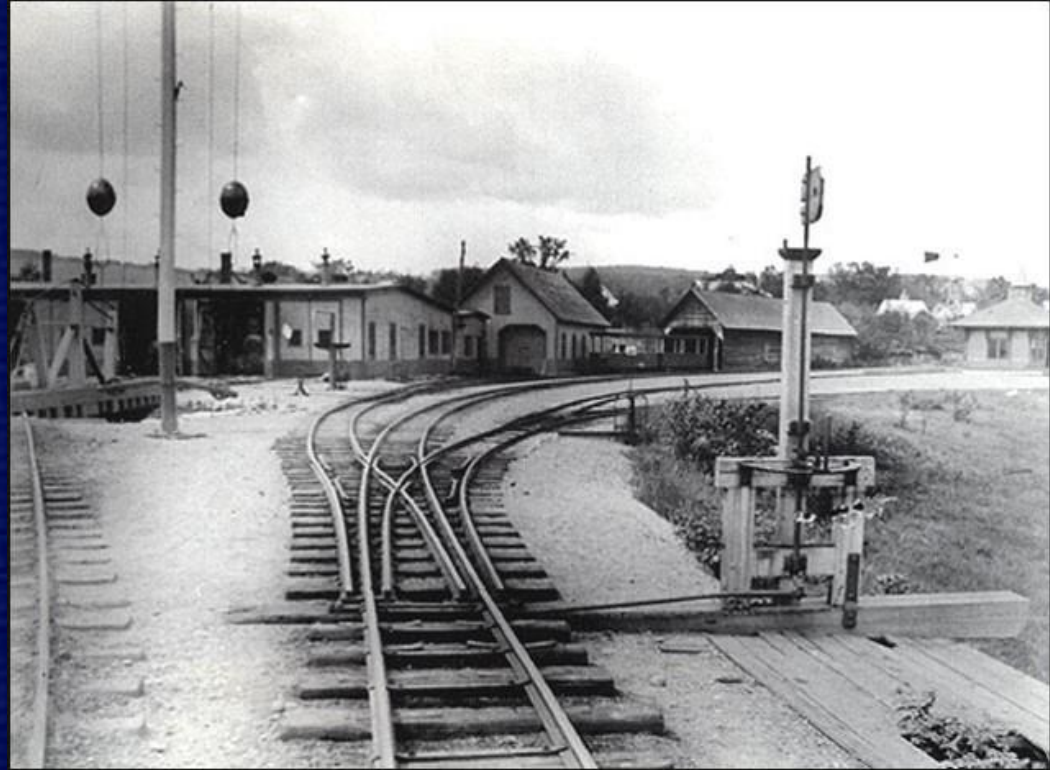


“I went immediately to work to find out where it may have gone. I found it had been properly loaded and properly trained in Oakland, California. It had been moved to our railroad in Salt Lake City, been carried to Denver, down to Pueblo, put on another line, and moved to St. Louis.

There it was to be handled by another railroad which would take it to Newark, New Jersey.

But some thoughtless switchman in the St. Louis yards moved a small piece of steel just three inches, a switch point, then pulled the lever to uncouple the car.

We discovered that a baggage car that belonged in Newark, New Jersey, was in fact in New Orleans, Louisiana—1,500 miles from its destination.



Just the three-inch movement of the switch in the St. Louis yard by a careless employee had started it on the wrong track, and the distance from its true destination increased dramatically.”

“That is the way it is with our lives. Instead of following a steady course, we are pulled by some mistaken idea in another direction.

The movement away from our original destination may be ever so small, but, if continued, that very small movement becomes a great gap and we find ourselves far from where we intended to go.”





“Have you ever looked at one of those 16-foot farm gates?

When it is opened, it swings very wide. The end at the hinges moves ever so slightly, while out at the perimeter the movement is great.

It is the little things upon which life turns that make the big difference in our lives, my dear young friends.”

Gordon B. Hinckley

The Big Impact

Enlarging your memory—scripture reading reminds us of:

Our duty to God

The obligation of doing good

Remembering our
covenants

Holding true to our
standards



***“All scripture given by
inspiration of god is profitable
for doctrine, for reproof, for
correction, for instruction in
righteousness: that the man of
God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all
good works.”
(JST 2 Timothy 3:16-17)***

“Ammon and his brethren taught from the scriptures.
They bore witness of the truth and sustained their
testimonies through the power of holy writ.”

JFM and RLM

The Mysteries

“Alma has not been granted a specific vision of the future so as to tell the impact of the brass plates, the scriptures, on generation upon generation of his people”

JFM and RLM



Council in His wisdom—Heavenly Father knows what is to come and what is best for us in order to bring about His eternal purposes.

“The works, and the designs, and the purposes of God cannot be frustrated, neither can they come to naught.

For God doth not walk in crooked paths, neither doth he turn to the right hand nor to the left, neither doth he vary from that which he hath said, therefore his paths are straight, and his course is one eternal round.”

D&C 3:1-2

Strict Obedience

Alma entrusts the scriptures to Helaman

He is to remember that God has entrusted him also with the scriptures

He is to remember to keep a strict obedience to the commandments

If he breaks the commandments the sacred records will be taken away

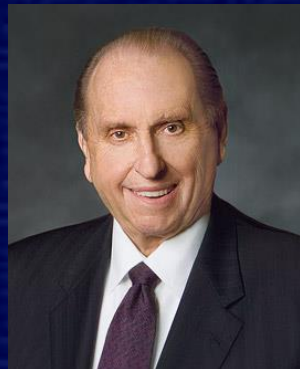


Satan's sift---The spirit will no longer be with Helaman

Must Appeal All Things

“The power of fervent prayer—if he will petition the heavens for direction and deliverance from evil, there is no power—whether men or demons—that can remove them from his hands. God has all power.”

JFM and RLM

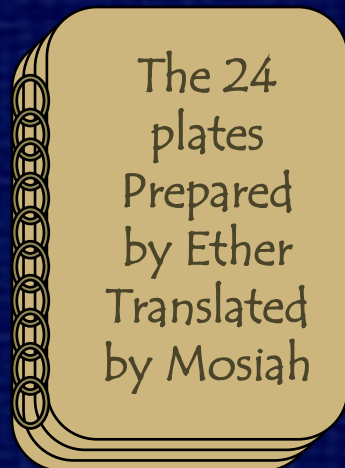
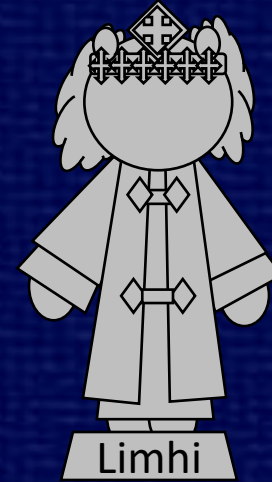


“We learn to pray by praying. One can devote countless hours to examining the experiences of others, but nothing penetrates the human heart as does a personal, fervent prayer and its heaven-sent response.”

Thomas S. Monson

Lessons of the Jaradites

Alma teaches Helaman about the 24 plates from the Jaradite records from the land of Desolation...discovered by the people of Limhi who were searching for Zarahemla.



There were certain things Alma wanted to expose of this group and some he did not want to be made known.

The things he didn't want to be made know were the secret combinations.



Secret Combinations

Their plunderings

Their wicked dealings

Their secret murders

Their secret oaths

Secret Oaths— Gadianton Robbers--
An organization of people bound
together by oaths to carry out the
evil purposes of the group.

The first secret
combination was between
Cain and the Devil
Moses 5:51



Gazelem

name given to servant of God

the Lord will prepare unto his servant Gazelem a stone

“He is a seer or a servant God commissioned to apply the sacred interpreters so as to expose the wickedness of past societies and nations, thus providing a warning to future generations to live according to the principles of the gospel.”



“And now, my son, these interpreters were prepared that the word of God might be fulfilled, ...” (Alma 37:24)

Instructions

Do not let the people know about:

The secret combinations of the
Jaradite people



There is a curse upon the land of Desolation

Why would Alma want these
things kept secret from the
people?

Giving Ideas

Why is it that we teach our children and ourselves to not watch inappropriate or evil movies...or read inappropriate books or magazines...or listen to inappropriate music?



There is a lesson that Alma was teaching his son, that if they read and talked about these wicked things it might give others ideas to experiment with wickedness.

Teach Them

Alma instructs Helaman to teach the people a hatred against sin



“It is not enough to teach the people of God about the gift of repentance; we must teach the awful consequences of transgression and must, to be sure, teach them to hate sin.”

JFM and RLM

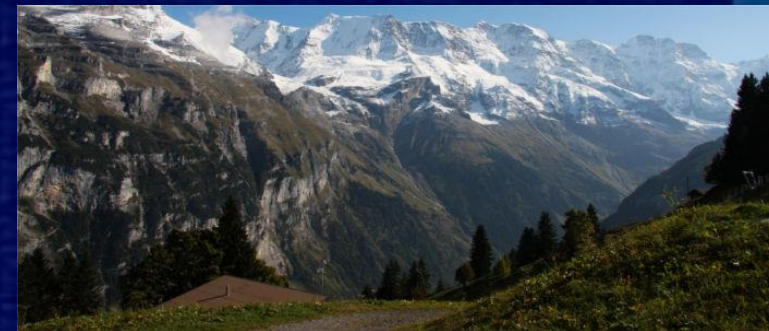
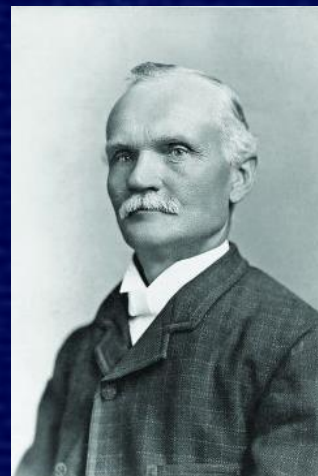
“Each one of us has the Light of Christ, or a conscience. It constantly prompts us to choose good. Good choices yield good consequences. On the other hand, delaying repentance and continuing to commit sin is like continuing to kick the skunk. The stench will become stronger with each sin, alienating us further and further from God and those we love.”

JFM and RLM



Sticks in the Snow

“[A Church member named Karl G. Maeser] was going with a group of young missionaries across the alps. They were crossing a high mountain pass on foot. There were long sticks stuck into the snow of the glacier to mark the path so that travelers could find their way safely across the glacier and down the mountain on the other side.



Jura Alps



“When they reached the summit, Brother Maeser ... pointed to those sticks that they had followed [and compared them to priesthood leaders in the Church, saying,] ‘They are just common old sticks, but it’s the position that counts. Follow them and you will surely be safe. Stray from them and you will surely be lost.’”
Boyd K. Packer

Learn Wisdom
in thy youth

Learn to keep
the
commandments

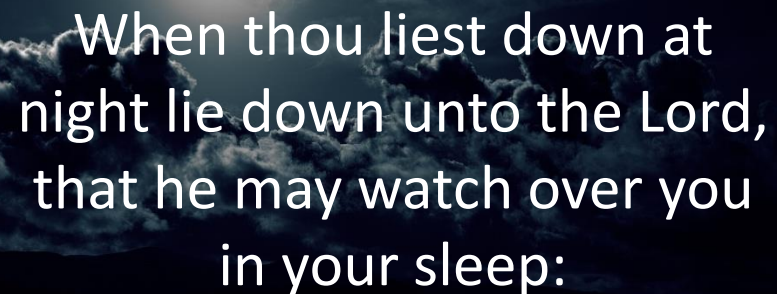
Pray for
support

Let thy thoughts
be always
directed of the
Lord


Let the affections of
thy heart be placed
upon the Lord
forever

**By following
the teachings
of Church
leaders, we
can find rest
to our souls**

Counsel with
the Lord



When thou liest down at
night lie down unto the Lord,
that he may watch over you
in your sleep:



**When thou risest
in the morning let
thy heart be full of
thanks unto God...**



The Tree

President Gordon B. Hinckley planted a young tree near his home soon after he was married. He “paid little attention to it as the years passed.” One day he noticed the tree was misshapen and leaning to the west. He tried to push it upright, but the trunk was too thick. He tried using a rope and pulleys to straighten it, but it would not bend. Finally, he took his saw and cut off the heavy branch on the west side, leaving an ugly scar. He later said of the tree:



“The other day I looked again at the tree. It is large. Its shape is better. It is a great asset to the home. But how serious was the trauma of its youth and how brutal the treatment I used to straighten it.

“When it was first planted, a piece of string would have held it in place against the forces of the wind. I could have and should have supplied that string with ever so little effort. But I did not, and it bent to the forces that came against it.”





What difference do you think it makes in a person's life to learn to keep the commandments of God while still young?



What are some ways you feel you have been or will be blessed because of your efforts to obey the commandments while you are young?

The Ball—or Director



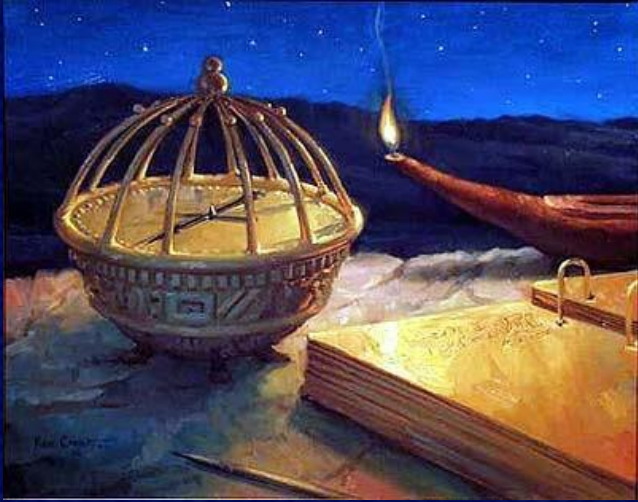
Liahona—worked according to their faith

A symbol of their faithfulness—a visible evidence of their standing before God



If we follow the words of Jesus Christ, they will direct us to receive eternal life.

Not without Shadow



A shadow is not the object itself but rather a reflection, an evidence of the nearness of the object.

Types or shadows—like animal sacrifice, the brazen serpent, or the Liahona are not Christ himself, but a reflection of Christ, a representation of the Redeemer.



“As we each press forward along the pathway of life, we receive direction from the Holy Ghost just as Lehi was directed through the Liahona. ...

“The Holy Ghost operates in our lives precisely as the Liahona did for Lehi and his family, according to our faith and diligence and heed. ...

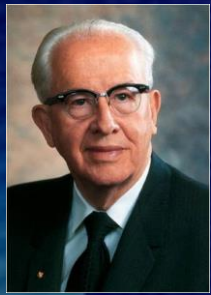
“And the Holy Ghost provides for us today the means whereby we can receive, ‘by small and simple things’ (Alma 37:6), increased understanding about the ways of the Lord. ...

“The Spirit of the Lord can be our guide and will bless us with direction, instruction, and spiritual protection during our mortal journey. We invite the Holy Ghost into our lives through meaningful personal and family prayer, feasting upon the words of Christ, diligent and exacting obedience, faithfulness and honoring of covenants, and through virtue, humility, and service.

And we steadfastly should avoid things that are immodest, coarse, crude, sinful, or evil that cause us to withdraw ourselves from the Holy Ghost.

“We also invite the ongoing companionship of the Holy Ghost as we worthily partake of the sacrament each Sabbath day.”





Lesson 92

“Give me a young man who has kept himself morally clean and has faithfully attended his Church meeting.

Give me a young man who has magnified his priesthood and has earned his duty to God Award and is an Eagle Scout.

Give me a young man who is a seminary graduate and has a burning testimony of the Book of Mormon.

Give me such a young man and I will give you a young man who can perform miracles for the Lord in the mission field and throughout his life.”



Go and Declare

The gospel message is a voice of gladness, a declaration of good news, a proclamation of peace.



Sources:

Videos:

Learn in Thy Youth (3:02)

Fulfilling Your Duty to God (4:55)



M. Russell Ballard *Ensign* May 1990 p. 6

Gordon B. Hinckley ("A Prophet's Counsel and Prayer for Youth," *Ensign*, Jan. 2001, 5–7); "Bring Up a Child in the Way He Should Go," *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 59

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. 3 pg. 274, 279

Thomas S. Monson *Teach the Children* Oct. 1997 Gen. Conf

Who's Who of the Book of Mormon Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen p. 56

Boyd K. Packer, "It Is the Position That Counts," *New Era*, June 1977, 51

Spencer V. Jones *Overcoming the Stench of Sin* April 2003 Gen. Conf

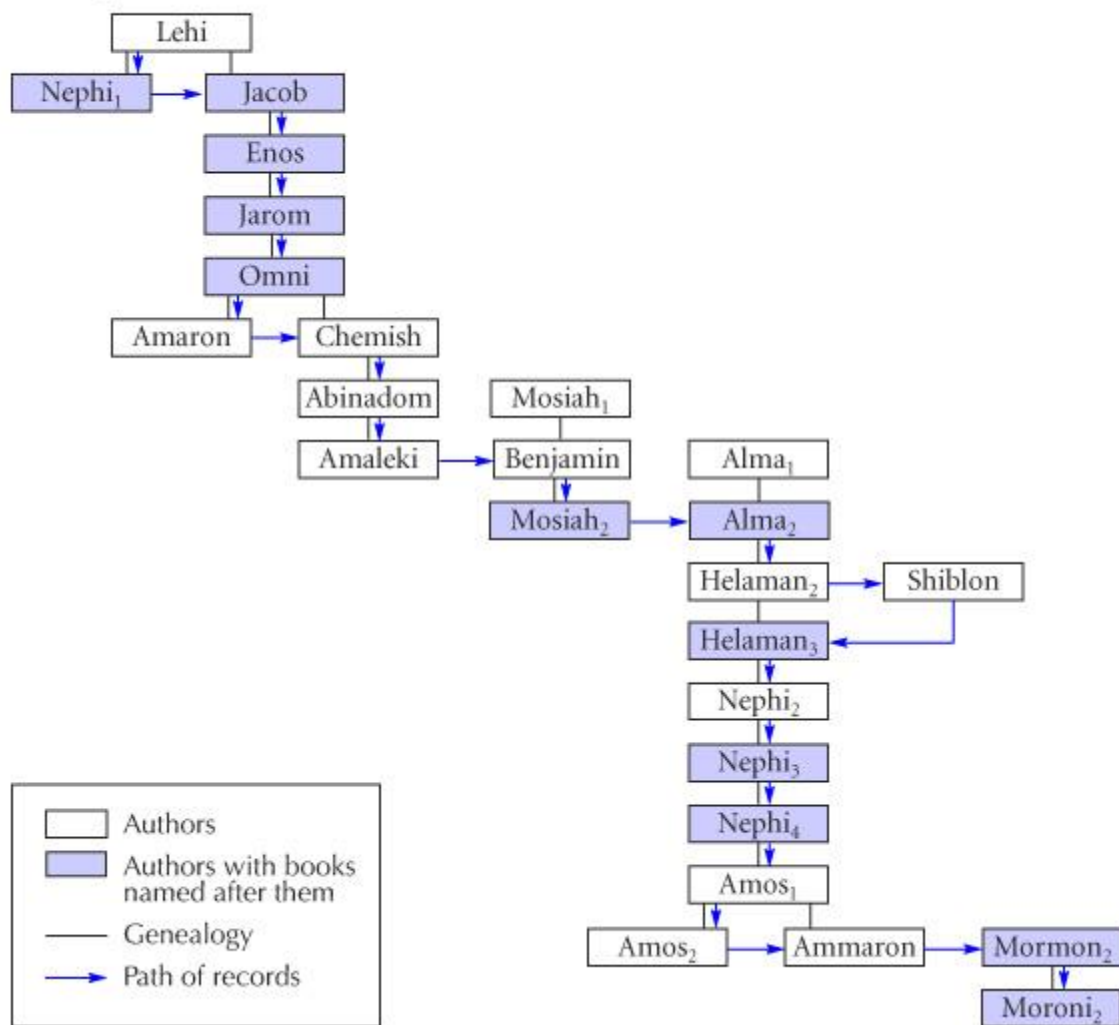
Elder David A. Bednar ("That We May Always Have His Spirit to Be with Us," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2006, 30–31).

Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson p. 197

<https://rsc.byu.edu/archived/called-teach-legacy-karl-g-maeser/mission-fatherland-1867-70>

<p>“You can put it down in your little black book...That if you will not be loyal in the small things you will not be loyal in the large things. If you will not respond to the so-called insignificant or menial tasks which need to be performed in the Church and Kingdom, there will be no opportunity for service in the so-called greater challenges.”</p> <p>Boyd K. Packer- <i>Follow the Brethren BYU Speeches of the Year</i> 1965 PP. 4-5</p>	<p>Interesting thought: Gazelem—”this may well be a play on words. Is Gazelem the seer stone or the servant It is difficult to tell from the passage and depends very much on the placement of a comma in the sentence. Perhaps it could refer to both. Though this name or title of Gazelem may be used in regard to any seer who utilizes seer stones, it seems in this instance to be a direct reference to Joseph Smith the Prophet.” by Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet...see (JST John 1:42)</p>
<p>Liahona...This interesting word is Hebrew with an Egyptian ending. It is the name which Lehi gave to the ball or director he found outside his tent...L is a Hebrew preposition meaning ‘to,’ and sometimes used to express the possessive case. lah is a Hebrew abbreviated form of ‘Jehovah,’ common in Hebrew names. On is the Hebrew name of the Egyptian ‘City of the Sun.” ...L-iah-on means, therefore, literally, ‘To God is Light’; or, ‘of God is Light.’ That is to say God gives light, as does the Sun. The final a reminds us that the Egyptian form of the Hebrew name On is Annu, and this seems to be the form Lehi used.”</p> <p>G. Renynolds and J. Sjodahl (Commentary on the Book of Mormon, 4:162, 178)</p>	<p>“It is not necessary that our young people should know of the wickedness carried on in anyplace. Such knowledge is not elevating and it is quite likely that more than one young man (or woman) can trace the first step of his downfall to a curiosity which led him (her) into questionable places”</p> <p>Joseph F. Smith (Gospel Doctrine pp. 373-374)</p>

Who Kept the Records in the Book of Mormon?



Nephite Chief Priests

CHIEF PRIESTS	BOOK DATES	NEPHITE HISTORIANS
Alma II (Mos 29:44)	91 B.C.	Alma II
Nephihah (Alma 4:17, 20)	83	
	73	Helaman I
Pahoran I (Alma 50:38-40)	67	
	56	Shiblon
	53	Helaman II
Pahoran II (Hel 1:1, 5)	52	
Pachumen (Hel 1:13)	51	
Helaman II (Hel 2:1-2)	50	
Nephi II (Hel 3:37)	39	Nephi II
Cezoram I (Hel 5:1)	30	
Cezoram II (Hel 6:15)	26	
Seezoram (Hel 9:23)	26	
Unnamed (maybe Lachoneus I)	23 B.C. - 1 A.D.	
Lachoneus I (3 Ne 1:1)	1 A.D.	Nephi III
Lachoneus II (3 Ne 6:19)	29-30 A.D.	

Student Teacher 1—Alma 37:33–34

Read aloud the following account told by President Boyd K. Packer (1924–2015) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:



“[A Church member named Karl G. Maeser] was going with a group of young missionaries across the alps. They were crossing a high mountain pass on foot. There were long sticks stuck into the snow of the glacier to mark the path so that travelers could find their way safely across the glacier and down the mountain on the other side.

“When they reached the summit, Brother Maeser . . . pointed to those sticks that they had followed [and compared them to priesthood leaders in the Church, saying,] ‘They are just common old sticks, but it’s the position that counts. Follow them and you will surely be safe. Stray from them and you will surely be lost’ ” (Boyd K. Packer, “It Is the Position That Counts,” *New Era*, June 1977, 51).

- How are Church leaders and their teachings like the sticks in the snow that Brother Maeser referred to?

On the board or on a piece of paper, write *Teachings of Church leaders*. Explain that Alma 37:33–34 contains Alma’s instructions to his son Helaman, whom Alma was preparing to be a Church leader.

Invite two students to take turns reading aloud from Alma 37:33–34. Ask the rest of the students to follow along, looking for what Alma counseled Helaman to teach the people. When students have finished reading the verses, ask them to report what they found. Write their responses under “Teachings of Church leaders.”

Ask your fellow students to look at the last phrase of Alma 37:34 to see what blessing comes from following the teachings of Church leaders. Write the following principle on the board or on a piece of paper: **By following the teachings of Church leaders, we can find rest to our souls. Ask:**

- What do you think it means to find rest to our souls? (Answers may include being free from the consequences of sin, receiving peace from the Spirit, and being blessed with strength to endure and overcome challenges.)

Invite students to choose one of the teachings listed in verses 33–34 and to explain how following that teaching can bring rest to our souls.

Ask your fellow students to think of a local Church leader or a General Authority who has taught them something that has made a difference in their lives. Invite a few students to share what this leader taught and how it influenced them.

Share your testimony about how following the teachings of Church leaders has brought rest to your soul.

Student Teacher 2—Alma 37:35–37

Explain to your fellow students that it is common for those who plant trees to tie or strap a young tree to a stake and then to remove the support once the tree matures. Ask them why they think that is done. Then read the following story about a tree that President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) planted in his yard:

President Gordon B. Hinckley planted a young tree near his home soon after he was married. He “paid little attention to it as the years passed.” One day he noticed the tree was misshapen and leaning to the west. He tried to push it upright, but the trunk was too thick. He tried using a rope and pulleys to straighten it, but it would not bend. Finally, he took his saw and cut off the heavy branch on the west side, leaving an ugly scar. He later said of the tree:



“The other day I looked again at the tree. It is large. Its shape is better. It is a great asset to the home. But how serious was the trauma of its youth and how brutal the treatment I used to straighten it.

“When it was first planted, a piece of string would have held it in place against the forces of the wind. I could have and should have supplied that string with ever so little effort. But I did not, and it bent to the forces that came against it” (Gordon B. Hinckley, “Bring Up a Child in the Way He Should Go,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1993, 59).

Invite a student to read aloud Alma’s counsel to Helaman in Alma 37:35. Ask students to think about how this verse relates to President Hinckley’s experience with the tree.

Invite students to summarize the principle in Alma 37:35 in their own words. (Their responses should express that **we should learn in our youth to keep the commandments of God.**) **Ask the following questions:**

- How does this principle relate to President Hinckley’s experience with the tree?
- What difference do you think it makes in a person’s life to learn to keep the commandments of God while still young?
- What are some ways you feel you have been or will be blessed because of your efforts to obey the commandments while you are young?

Invite a student to read Alma 37:36–37 aloud. Ask the rest of the students to follow along, looking for specific counsel that could help them keep the commandments while they are young.

- How could following this counsel daily help you keep the commandments?

Share your feelings and testimony about the importance of learning to keep God’s commandments in our youth. Encourage your fellow students to keep the commandments and to counsel with the Lord in all they do.

Student Teacher 3—Alma 37:38–45

Display the picture *The Liahona* (*Gospel Art Book* [2009], no. 68; see also [lds.org/media-library](https://www.lds.org/media-library)). Remind your fellow students of the compass that the Lord used to help Lehi's family travel to the promised land. In Alma 37:38, we learn that the compass was called the Liahona. Explain that Alma spoke of the Liahona in order to teach Helaman an important principle about how the Lord guides His children.

Explain to your fellow students that you are going to ask them questions and then have them take turns reading a few verses aloud while everyone looks for the answers. Have them respond to each question after the associated scripture passage has been read.

- How did the Liahona work? (See Alma 37:38–40.)
- Why did the Liahona cease to work at times? (See Alma 37:41–42.)
- How might we compare the Liahona to the words of Christ? (See Alma 37:43–45.)

Help your fellow students see that the choice to follow or not follow the directions of the Liahona is like our choice regarding how we respond to direction that comes through the words of Christ.

- What do you think the phrase “far better land of promise” (verse 45) refers to? (Eternal life.)

Invite your fellow students to summarize a principle based on Alma's words in Alma 37:45. Using their own words, they should identify the following principle: **If we follow the words of Jesus Christ, they will direct us to receive eternal life.**

- Where can we find the words of Christ? (Answers may include the scriptures, the words of latter-day prophets, patriarchal blessings, and the promptings of the Spirit.)

Share how the words of Christ have influenced you spiritually and how they help you progress toward eternal life. You might suggest that students consider talking to their parents, bishop, or branch president about obtaining a patriarchal blessing or, if they have already received one, that they read it regularly and prayerfully.

Something of Interest--Gazelam

Gazelam is a name mentioned in the scriptures and appears only once in a reference found in Alma 37:23 of the Book of Mormon. Some writings and scholars have rendered the spelling "Gazalem" and "Gazelam". As with most semetic words vowels are often not written and thus when translated into English can take on different spellings and pronunciations. The Scripture reads, "And the Lord said: I will prepare unto my servant Gazelem, a stone, which shall shine forth in darkness unto light, that I may discover unto my people who serve me, that I may discover unto them the works of their brethren, yea, their secret works, their works of darkness, and their wickedness and abominations." Alma 37:23.

Here in Alma the name "Gazalem" refers to a "servant" or a prophet who would have the use a "stone" whose function is bring to light the covert events and happenings of the people of Ether, a group who inhabited the Americas at the time of the tower of Babel. (see Alma 37:21, Ether 1:1-43)

The person Gazelem referred to here is the Prophet, Joseph Smith. From March of 1832 to sometime after April of 1834 certain revelations given through the Joseph Smith used pseudonyms or code names to refer to individuals as a way of protecting their identity. During that time of perseuction Joseph was identified in sections 78, 82, and 104 of the D&C as "Gazelem" rather than by his given name. Elder Bruce R. McConkie said, "Strange and unusual names were placed by the Prophet in some of the early revelations so that the individuals whom the Lord was then addressing would not be known to the world. The purpose for keeping these identities secret from their enemies having long since passed, the true names are now found in the Doctrine and Covenants. Two of the names, which identified the Prophet himself, were Gazelam and Enoch. (D. & C. 78:9; 82:11; 104:26, 43, 45, 46.) Presumptively these and other names used at the same time have particular meanings, which are not now known to us. With reference to the name Gazelam, it is interesting to note that Alma in directing Helaman to preserve both the Urim and Thummim and the plates containing the Book of Ether, says that such record will be brought to light by the Lord's servant Gazelem, who will use "a stone" in his translation work. (Alma 37:21-23.) It may be that Gazelem is a variant spelling of Gazelam and that Alma's reference is to the Prophet Joseph Smith who did in fact bring forth part at least of the Ether record. Or it could be that the name Gazelem (Gazelam) is a title having to do with power to translate ancient records and that Alma's reference was to some Nephite prophet who brought the Book of Ether to light in the golden era of Nephite history." Bruce R. McConkie Mormon Doctrine, p.307

Hugh Nibley teaches that the name, while having a connection to the term 'stone' is the name of a person not the name of the stone as some have surmised. He says quoting the verse, "That's a person he [Alma] is talking about; Gazelem is not the stone. His servant Gazelem has the stone; he is preparing it for him. Incidentally, that word Gazelem is a very interesting one. It's an Aramaic word, and it has definitely to do with the shining stone. "...yea, their secret works, their works of darkness, and their wickedness and abominations." Now that's what the story is going to be. That's not very nice. These interpreters were prepared for that reason, the whole idea being this horrible story I'm telling you that "except they repent I will destroy them from off the face of the earth; and I will bring to light all their secrets [just as I did of the Jaredites] and abominations, unto every nation that shall hereafter possess the land."

George Reynolds in his book "The Story of the Book of Mormon", p.293 says that the word "Gazelem appears to have its roots in Gaz--a stone, and Aleim, a name of God as a revelator or interposer in the affairs of men. If this suggestion be correct, its roots admirably agree with its apparent meaning--a seer. The text reads: And the Lord said. I will prepare unto my servant Gazelem, a stone, which shall shine forth in darkness unto light, that I may discover unto my people who serve me, that I may discover unto them the works of their brethren: yea, their secret works, their works of darkness, and their wickedness and abominations." Reynolds explanation would indicate that the name Gazelem has been applied to Joseph Smith as a sort of nickname indicating an attribute the prophet posesses much the same as we might use a nickname like "Blondie" or "Slim" when applied to a person having those attributes.

B. H. Roberts in the book New Witnesses for God, Vol.3, p.145 also says the word is from the Nephite vocabulary. "The word "Gazelem" is also a Nephite word, meaning "a stone," that is, a seer stone, since it is spoken of as a means of ascertaining knowledge through it by revelation."

In a semon delivered in 1873 Orson Hyde said Joseph was called Gazelam, "being a person to whom the Lord had given the Urim and Thummim" and so was known to many by that name in the early days of the Church. (Discourse by Orson Pratt, 16 August 1873, Journal of Discourses, 16:156.)