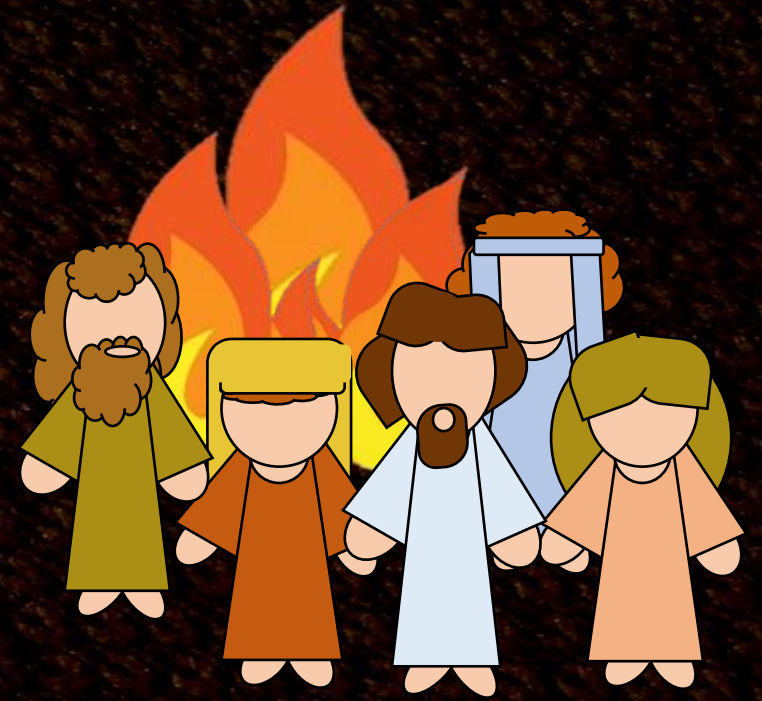
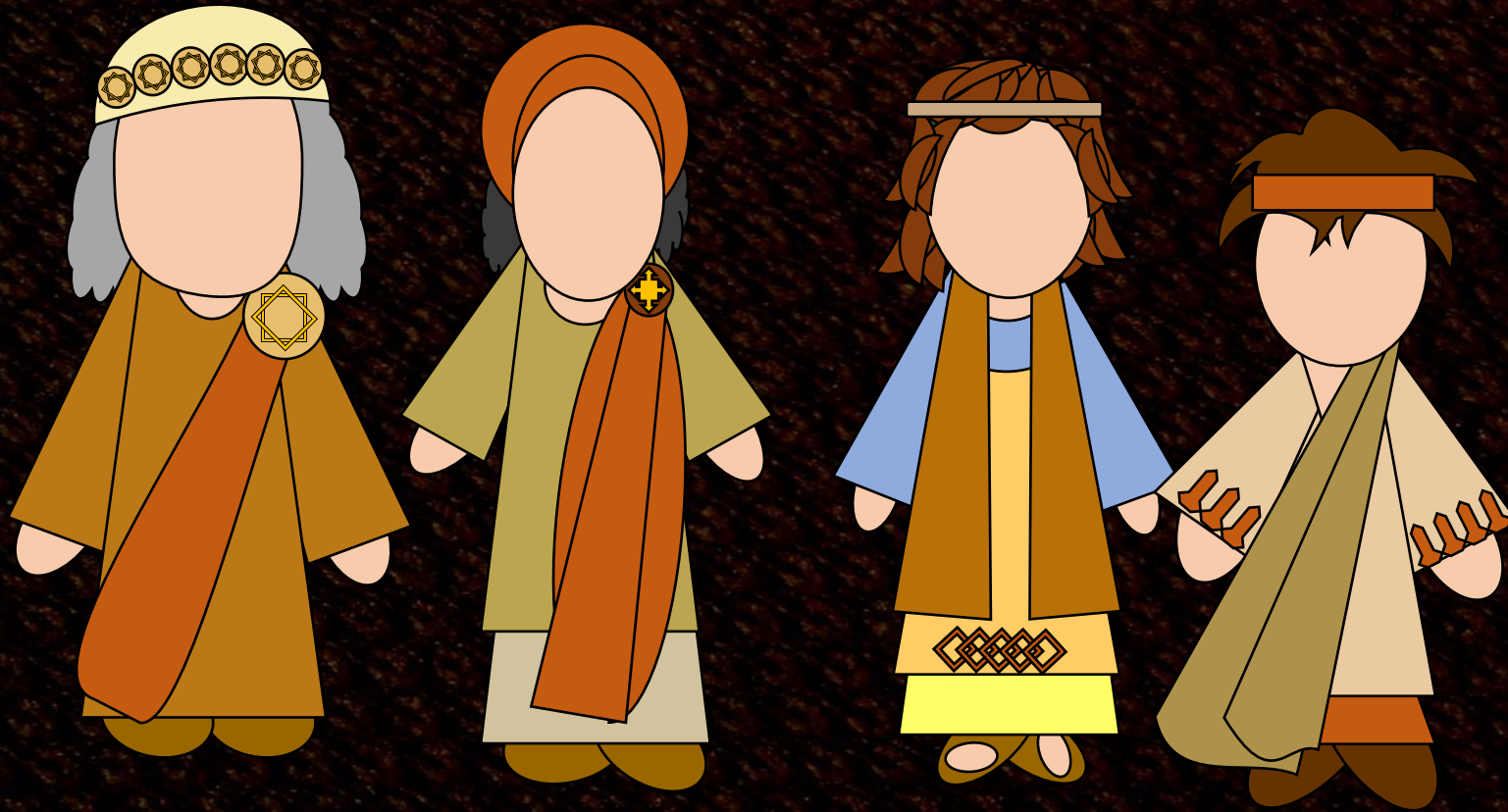


Alma 13-16



Alma Speaks of the Melchizedek Priesthood Alma 13



Calling High Priests



Two priesthoods:
Melchizedek and Aaronic—includes Levitical

Melchisedec—Melchizedek
The Higher Priesthood



Anciently Called:

“The Holy Order of the Son of God”

To avoid being too frequent in repetition of his name, they, the church, in ancient days, called that after Melchizedek.”

D&C 107: 1-3

JFM and RLM



Christ—the Great High Priest

They were commissioned to teach
the gospel from the time of Adam to
the time of Moses

All who were ordained to the priestly office in
ancient days were thought of as types or
prophecies of him.



“All priesthood is Melchizedek, but there are
different portions or degrees of it”
Joseph Smith

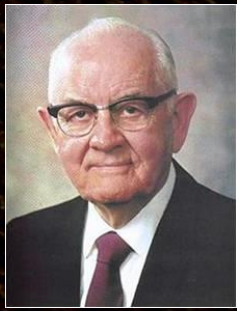


Foreordained

Priesthood holders were called and prepared before the foundation of the world because of their faith and good works

“Every man who has a calling to minister to the inhabitants of the world was ordained to that very purpose in the Grand Council of heaven before this world was. I suppose that I was ordained to this very office in that Grand Council.”
Joseph Smith





“In the world before we came here, faithful women were given certain assignments while faithful men were foreordained to certain priesthood tasks. While we do not now remember the particulars, this does not alter the glorious reality of what we once agreed to.”

The Savior calls
priesthood
leaders to help us
look to Him for
redemption and
to teach His
commandments
so we can enter
into His rest.

Rest



Enjoyment of peace and freedom from worry and turmoil. The Lord has promised such rest to His faithful followers during this life. He has also prepared a place of rest for them in the next life.”

Guide to the Scriptures





Foreordination

Called and Prepared

“As the Grand council in Heaven Christ was called and ordained to his early ministry, so were all who minister in his name first called in heavenly councils, where they too were ordained to the labors that would be theirs in mortality.”

JFM and RLM



“All prophets had the Melchizedek Priesthood and were ordained by God himself.”

Joseph Smith



No one is called to a position who is not properly prepared



Melchizedek Priesthood

When were Melchizedek Priesthood holders first called and prepared?
(See Alma 13:3–5.)

What duty do all Melchizedek Priesthood holders have?
(See Alma 13:6.)

What phrases in Alma 13:7 describe the Melchizedek Priesthood?

What are some qualifications for being ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood?
(See Alma 13:10.)



Blessings

Through the Melchizedek Priesthood:

The gift of the Holy Ghost

Patriarchal blessings and other priesthood blessings

The leadership of General Authorities and leadership of local leaders such as bishops or branch presidents.



The blessings you have received through the covenants your parents have made in the temple

Baptism

Partaking of the sacrament, which are performed by the authority of the Aaronic Priesthood but under the direction of Melchizedek Priesthood leaders.



Magnify Your Callings

The High Priests chose to repent and work righteousness

*“For whoso is faithful unto the obtaining these two priesthoods of which I have spoken, and the magnifying their calling, are sanctified by the Spirit unto the renewing of their bodies.”
D&C 84:33*

“Men are entrusted with the priesthood so that they may serve and bless others.

Through faithfulness... they sanctify their own souls...”

Alma 13:10-11



“Therefore, O ye that embark in the service of God, see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day.

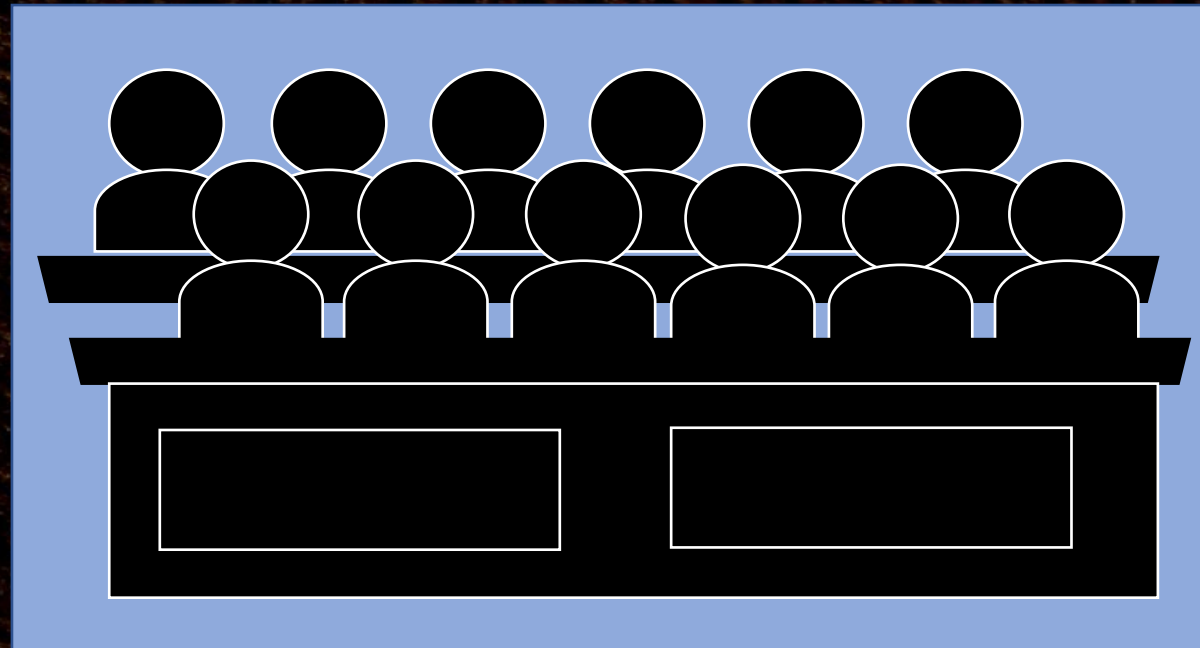
*Therefore, if ye have desires to serve God ye are called to the work;
For behold the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul;
D&C 4:2-4*



Priestcraft VS Priesthood



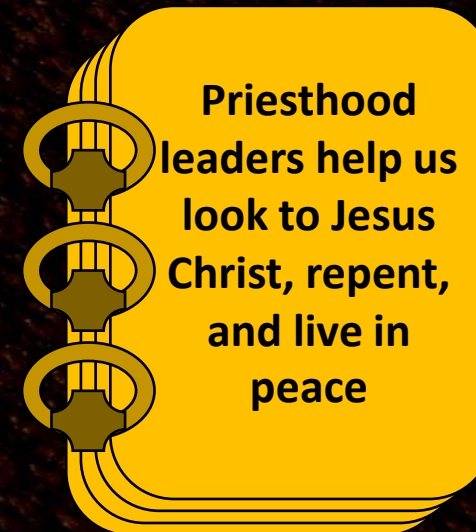
People of Ammonihah--
Professors of Nehor:
False order of priesthood called priestcraft
Alma 14:18 and Alma 1:12-15



Alma 13:10-12



Blessings through Melchizedek
Priesthood:
Having the spirit of prophecy
Having the spirit of revelation
The gift of speaking with tongues
The gift of preaching
The gift of the Holy Ghost
The gift of translation



Melchizedek—A Type of Christ

He was introduced in the Book of Mormon by Alma in around 82 BC—“none were greater”

He was a King over the land of Salem

He exercised mighty faith and received the office of the High Priesthood

He preached repentance to the people

The people repented and they established peace in their land

He was called the “Prince of Peace”

He received tithes from Abraham—He was keeper of the storehouse (JST Genesis 14:37-39)

He ordained Abraham (D&C 84:14)

He was called the King of Heaven...the King of Peace
(JST Genesis 14:26-40)



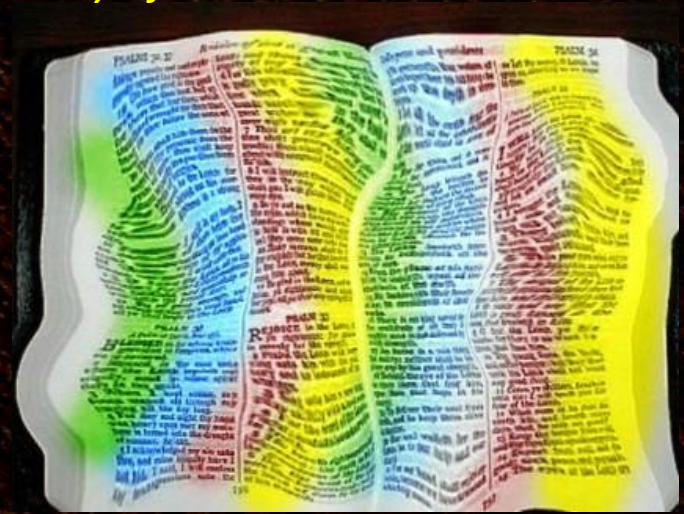
Wrest Them--Scriptures

"Some profess to accept the voice of heaven, but only after having distorted its purpose to suit their own."



"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

2 Peter 3:16



"Webster states that to wrest is to 'turn or twist; to ascribe a wrong meaning or intent to; to deliberately misinterpret or distort.' The Lord warned against wresting the scriptures (D&C 10:63).

Those who wrest in the scriptures:

Taking what is truth and embellishing on it as fantasy

Stretching a text beyond what is meant

Not giving the text an appropriate application—meaning

Taking the plain meaning and twisting to mean something else

Picking and choosing which scripture suits yourself



Alma Announces Christ's Birth

The Day of Salvation

Glad tidings of Great Joy

Preparation of hearts to receive
the word

Joyful News

Made known to Holy Men

Prophecies being fulfilled



Jeremy Winborg



Humble



If we humble ourselves and watch and pray continually, we will not be tempted above what we are able to bear

“There is nothing wrong with feeling pleased with the results of our hard work. But it is also important to recognize God’s hand in the things we are able to accomplish...”

“There is no place for arrogance in our lives,” President Hinckley stated. “There is no place for conceit. There is no place for egotism.”

Arrogance, conceit, and egotism will stifle our ability to receive personal revelation, and may also damage our relationships with others...”

Being humble not only helps us in relationships, but it also gives us the opportunity to receive direction and guidance from our Heavenly Father.

Caroline H. Benzley



Enter Into His Rest



“The ancient prophets speak of ‘entering into God’s rest; what does it mean?”

To my mind, it means entering into the knowledge and love of God, having faith in his purpose and in his plan, to such an extent that we know we are right, and that we are not hunting for something else.”

Joseph F. Smith

As we respond humbly to the invitation to repent, the Spirit will lead us into the rest of the Lord.

“True saints enter into the *rest of the Lord* while in this life, and by abiding in the truth, they continue in that blessed state until they rest with the Lord in heaven. ... The rest of the Lord, in eternity, is to inherit eternal life, to gain the fulness of the Lord’s glory.”

Bruce R. McConkie



Sources:

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol. 3 pg. 93

Joseph Smith Teachings pg. 180-181; (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith* [2007], 511).

President Spencer W. Kimball (*Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball*[2006], 215–16).

Joseph F. Smith, *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph F. Smith* [1998], 56).

Caroline H. Benzley *Be Humble* 2002 September New Era

Bruce R. McConkie, *Mormon Doctrine*, 2nd ed. [1966], 633).



Other Quotes for Alma 13:3-5

President Joseph Fielding Smith:

“God gave his children their free agency even in the [premortal] spirit world, by which the individual spirits had the privilege, just as men have here, of choosing the good and rejecting the evil, or partaking of the evil to suffer the consequences of their sins. Because of this, some even there were more faithful than others in keeping the commandments of the Lord. ...

“The spirits of men had their free agency. ... *The spirits of men were not equal. They may have had an equal start*, and we know they were all innocent in the beginning; but the right of free agency which was given to them enabled some to outstrip others, and thus, through the eons of immortal existence, to become more intelligent, more faithful, for they were free to act for themselves, to think for themselves, to receive the truth or rebel against it” (*Doctrines of Salvation*, comp. Bruce R. McConkie, 3 vols. [1954–56], 1:58–59).

President Boyd K. Packer of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught:

“No more profound truth has been conveyed to us in the restoration than the knowledge of our premortal existence. No other church knows or teaches this truth. The doctrine is given only in outline form, but salient facts are repeated often enough in the revelations to assure us of certain fundamental truths.

“... The few crucial facts we know about our status in premortal life are these: ‘Man was also in the beginning with God.’ (D&C 93:29.) We lived in the presence of God, our Eternal Father; we are His offspring. Intelligence, or spirit, was organized as spirit bodies before the world was. (See Abraham 3:22.) Each of us was endowed with agency. Authority was conferred and leaders were chosen. (Alma 13:1–4.)” (*Our Father’s Plan* [1984], 14–15).

***True to the Faith* includes the following explanation of foreordination:**

“In the premortal spirit world, God appointed certain spirits to fulfill specific missions during their mortal lives. This is called foreordination.

“Foreordination does not guarantee that individuals will receive certain callings or responsibilities. Such opportunities come in this life as a result of the righteous exercise of agency, just as foreordination came as a result of righteousness in the premortal existence. ...

“The doctrine of foreordination applies to all members of the Church, not just to the Savior and His prophets. Before the creation of the earth, faithful women were given certain responsibilities and faithful men were foreordained to certain priesthood duties. Although you do not remember that time, you surely agreed to fulfill significant tasks in the service of your Father. As you prove yourself worthy, you will be given opportunities to fulfill the assignments you then received” (*True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference* [2004], 69–70).

Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles taught:

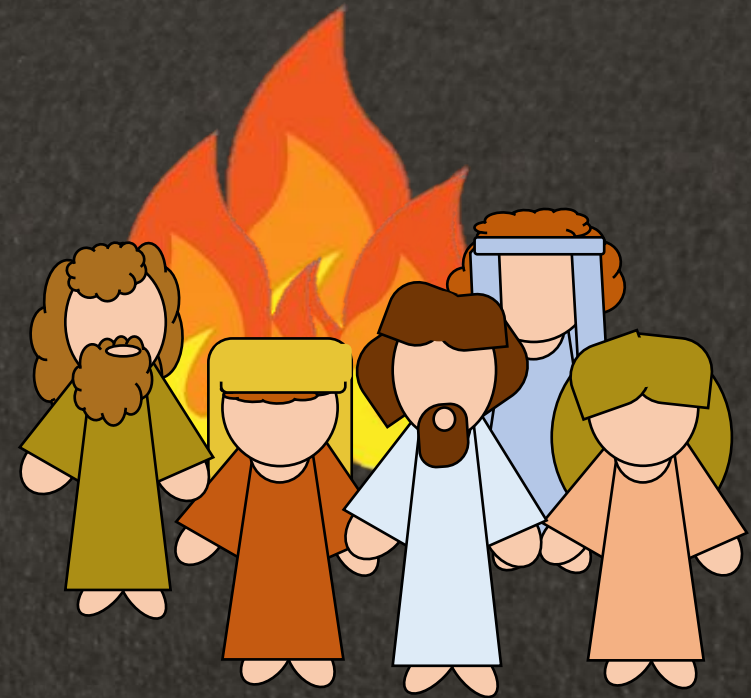
“Premortality is not a relaxing doctrine. For each of us, there are choices to be made, incessant and difficult chores to be done, ironies and adversities to be experienced, time to be well spent, talents and gifts to be well employed. Just because we were chosen ‘there and then,’ surely does not mean we can be indifferent ‘here and now.’ Whether foreordination for men, or foredesignation for women, those called and prepared must also prove ‘chosen, and faithful.’ (See Rev. 17:14; [D&C 121:34–36](#))” (“Premortality, a Glorious Reality,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1985, 17).

Wrest Alma 13:20:

"**President Joseph Fielding Smith** gave the following counsel regarding wresting or misinterpreting the scriptures: 'It is wrong to take one passage of scripture and isolate it from all other teachings dealing with the same subject. We should bring together all that has been said by authority on the question. If we were to make a photograph, it would be necessary for all of your rays of light to be focused properly on the subject. If this were not done then a blurred picture would be the result. This is the case when we try to obtain a mental picture, when we have only a portion of the facts dealing with the subject we are considering.' (DS 2:95.)

"The **Prophet Joseph** gave the key whereby scriptures are to be interpreted: 'What is the rule of interpretation?' he asked. 'Just no interpretation at all. Understand it precisely as it reads. I have a key by which I understand the scriptures. I enquire, what was the question which drew out the answer, or caused Jesus to utter the parable?' (*TPJS*, p. 276-7)." (Hoyt W. Brewster, Jr., *Doctrine and Covenants Encyclopedia*, p. 651)

Adversity
Trials of the Faithful
Alma 14



Adversity



“Adversity comes from different sources. You may at times face trials as a consequence of your own pride and disobedience.

These trials can be avoided through righteous living. Other trials are simply a natural part of life and may come at times when you are living righteously.

For example, you may experience trials in times of sickness or uncertainty or at the deaths of loved ones.

Adversity may sometimes come because of others’ poor choices and hurtful words and actions.

“Your success and happiness, both now and in the eternities, depend largely on your responses to the difficulties of life”

True to the Faith



Always, Sometimes, Never



I trust in the Lord's will and timing when praying for relief from my trials.

I faithfully seek patience and understanding when life seems unfair.

I center my faith in Jesus Christ and His eternal promises rather than in a particular outcome I hope for.





We all participated in the councils of heaven that provided for moral agency, knowing that there would be mortal pain and even unspeakable tragedy because of the abuse of agency.

We understood that this could leave us angry, bewildered, defenseless, and vulnerable.

But we also knew that the Savior's Atonement would overcome and compensate for all of the unfairness of mortal life and bring us peace.

Quentin L. Cook



Believers and Non-Believers

“And it came to pass 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.”



“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 unto Zeezrom; and they also said that Amulek had lied unto them, and had reviled against their law and also against their lawyers and judges.”

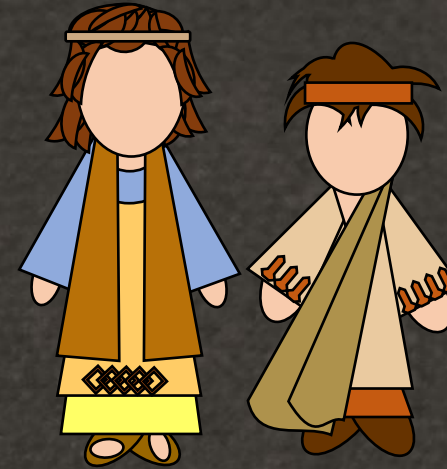
“When the servants of falsehood contend with the servants of truth, each side must fight with its own weapons. The servant of light cannot use falsehoods to advance their cause nor can the servants of the prince of darkness use truth...”

JFM and RLM



Trials

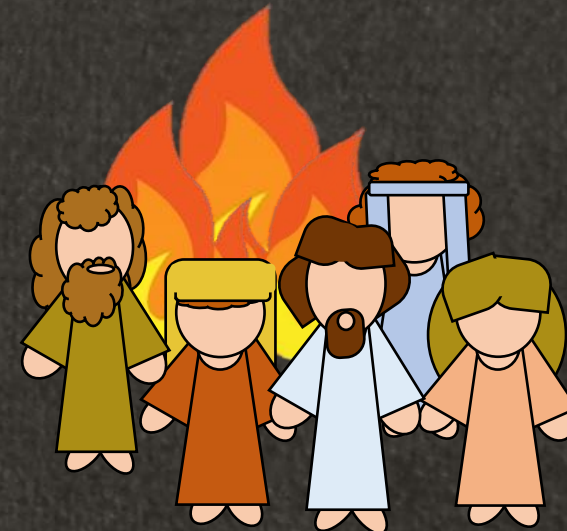
Alma and Amulek:
People wanted to destroy them
Bound them in cords
Presented them to chief judge
Witnessed against them
Cast out and sent men to cast stones at them
Made them witness the burning of the women
and children



Female and Male converts and children:
The people caused them to be cast into the
fire and their scriptures were burnt also



Zeezrom:
Encircled about with 'pains of hell'
Plead for Alma and Amulek
People accused him of being of the devil
The people cast him out and sent men to cast
stones at him



He Doth Suffer--Allows

When Amulek saw the suffering of the women and children, he wanted to exercise the power of the priesthood to save them.

Why did the Lord permit these women and children to be burned?

The Lord allowed the people to suffer so their deaths could stand as a witness against the people who killed them—Student Manual



*“For the Lord suffereth the righteous to be slain that his justice and judgment may come upon the wicked; therefore ye need not suppose that the righteous are lost because they are slain; but behold, they do enter into the rest of the Lord their God.”
Alma 60:13*

Those Who Suffer Vs Those Who Harm

**The Lord will
bless and
reward those
who suffer for
their belief in
Him**



**God will hold
those who
harm innocent
people
accountable for
their actions**

To Be Blessed

“God is not the author of evil, yet within limits and bounds he allows it to exist.”

Suffering sanctifies the souls of the faithful. Saints throughout the ages have been known to suffer for being faithful to the Lord.

“God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”
Hebrews 11:40

It was the Lord’s will to allow the people to suffer

However

This is not always the case. The Lord loves all his children and wants them to be happy and have peace in their lives.

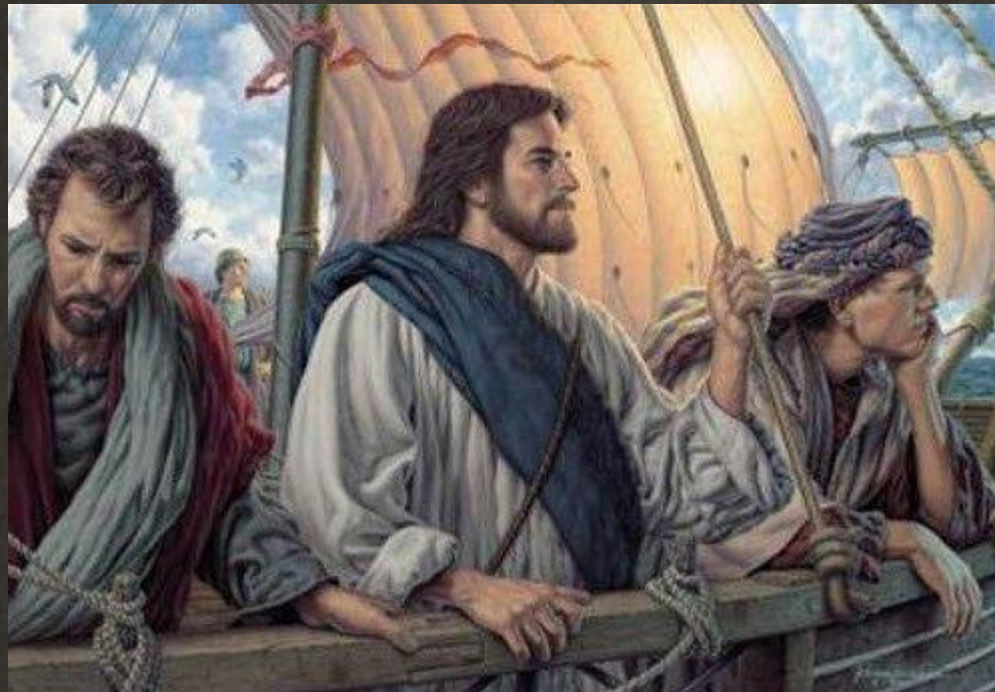
If anyone is being hurt or abused in any way, they should seek help from a parent or Church leader so they can resolve the problem.



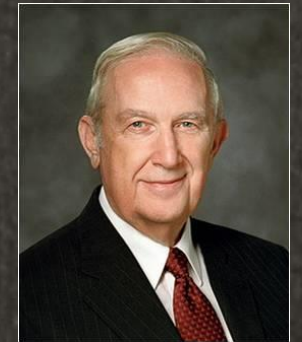
When we experience suffering and afflictions, we can choose to trust in the Lord



“The example of Alma and Amulek is enlightening. While striving to do good among the people of Ammonihah, they were taken captive. Amulek trusted his more seasoned companion, Alma, who led him to greater confidence in the Lord. Forced to observe women and children consumed by fire, Amulek said, ‘Perhaps they will burn us also.’ Alma answered:



‘Be it according to the will of the Lord’—a vital principle.



‘But ... our work is not finished; therefore they burn us not’”.

Richard G. Scott

Permits

What are some other reasons the Lord might permit us to suffer?

He wants us to understand the consequences of unwise decisions

He wants us to develop patience

He wants us to develop empathy for others who suffer

He wants us to understand that we need to rely on Him

Student Manual 2013



“Sometimes the Lord’s people are hounded and persecuted. Sometimes He deliberately lets His faithful saints linger and suffer, in both body and spirit, to prove them in all things, and to see if they will abide in His covenant, even unto death, that they may be found worthy of eternal life. If such be the lot of any of us, so be it.”

Elder Bruce R. McConkie

In His Own Way and Time



How long shall we suffer these great afflictions, O Lord? O Lord, give us strength according to our faith which is in Christ, even unto deliverance.

If we call on the Lord in faith, He will strengthen us in our afflictions and deliver us in His way and in His own time



“It is true I am weak enough to weep at the death of my friends and kindred. I may shed tears when I see the grief of others. I have sympathy in my soul for the children of men. I can weep with them when they weep; I can rejoice with them when they rejoice; but I have no cause to mourn, nor to be sad because death comes into the world...

...All fear of this death has been removed from the Latter-day Saints. They have no dread of the temporal death, because they know that as death came upon them by the transgression of Adam, so by the righteousness of Jesus Christ shall life come unto them, and though they die they shall live again. Possessing this knowledge, they have joy even in death, for they know that they shall rise again and shall meet again beyond the grave.”

Joseph F. Smith



Protection Through Torture

Chief judge—smote Alma and Amulek 3 times and sent them to prison

The Chief Judge over the land of Ammonihah subjected them through torture

After 3 days lawyers, judges, priests, and teachers—all after the order of Nehor, questions Alma and Amulek



Alma and Amulek were silent

They were still bound in cords

Many times they questioned and mocked Alma and Amulek

They withheld food from them and their clothing was taken from them

O Lord, Give Us Strength

On the 12th day of the tenth month in the 10th year of the reign of the judges



Liz Lemon Swindle

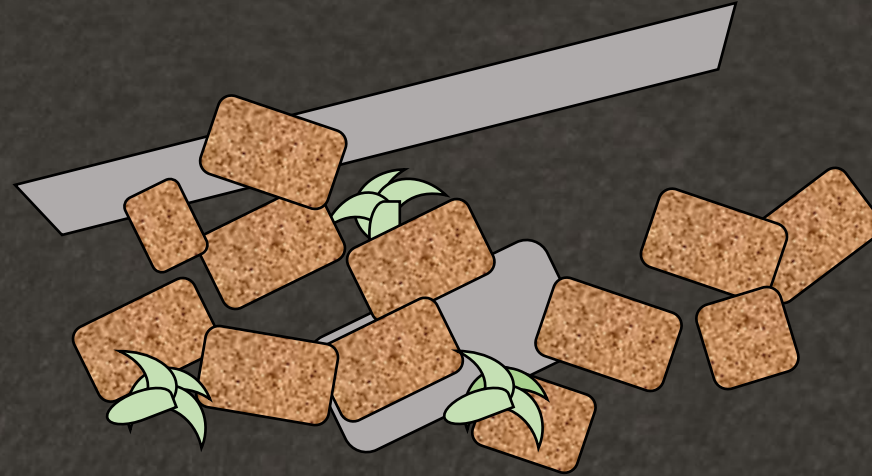
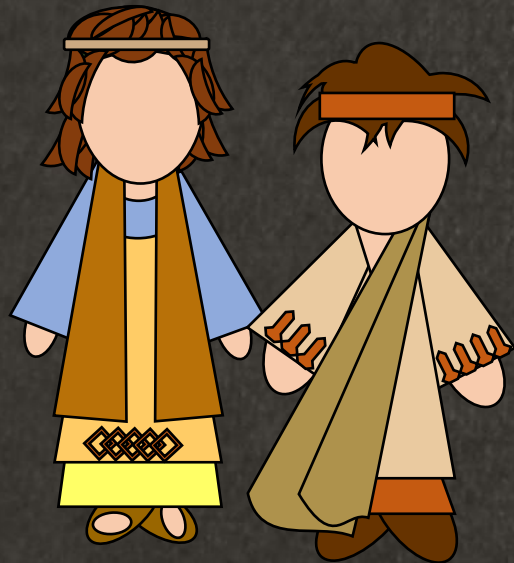
Read Joseph Smith's Plea
while in Prison: D&C 121:1-6



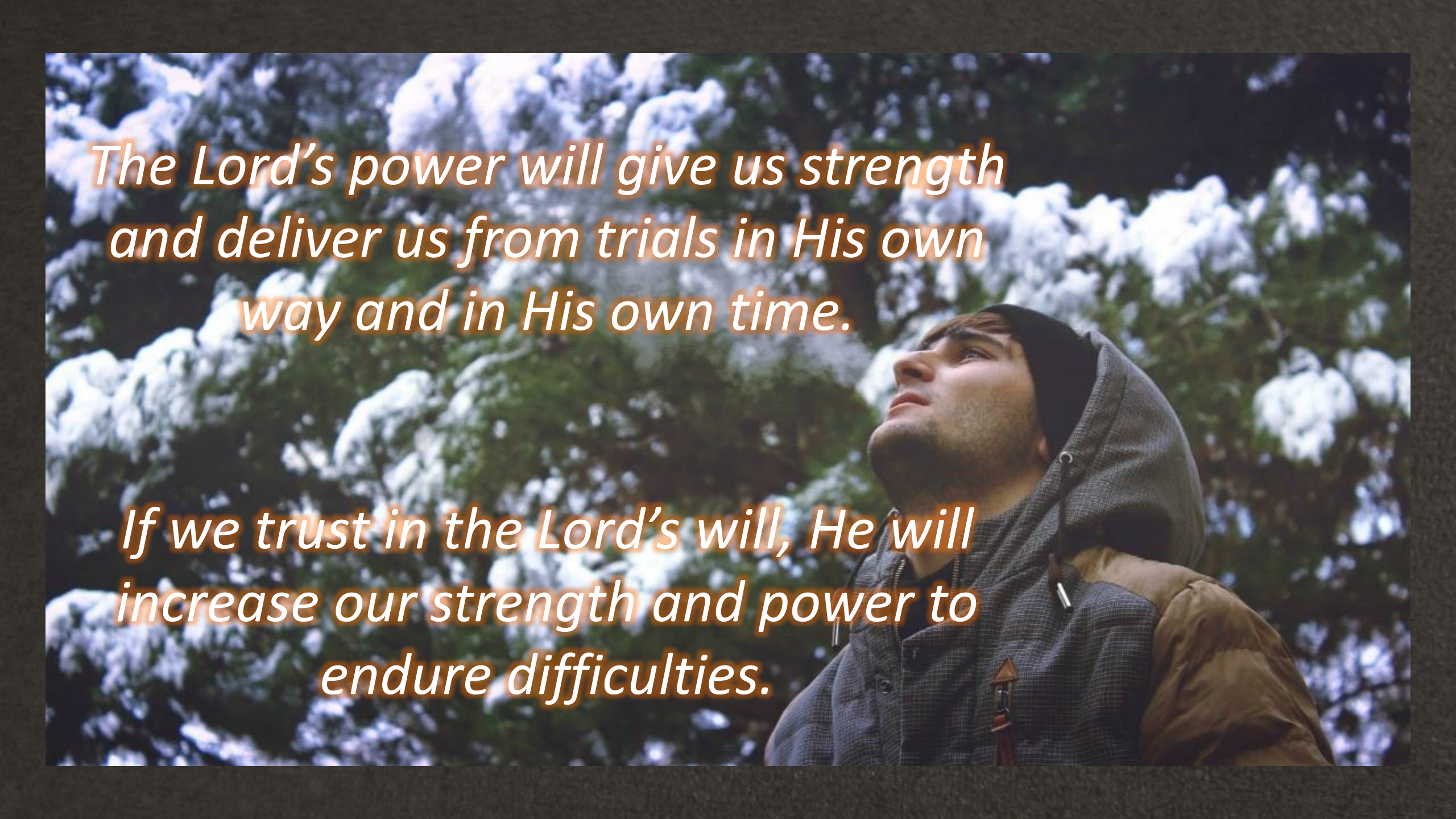
**If we call on the Lord in faith, He will
strengthen us in our afflictions and
deliver us in His way and in His own
time.**

The Earth Did Quake

“And it came to pass that so great was their fear that they fell to the earth, and did not obtain the outer door of the prison; and the earth shook mightily, and the walls of the prison were rent in twain, so that they fell to the earth; and the chief judge, and the lawyers, and priests, and teachers, who smote upon Alma and Amulek, were slain by the fall thereof.”



“And Alma and Amulek came forth out of the prison, and they were not hurt; for the Lord had granted unto them power, according to their faith which was in Christ. And they straightway came forth out of the prison; and they were loosed from their bands; and the prison had fallen to the earth, and every soul within the walls thereof, save it were Alma and Amulek, was slain; and they straightway came forth into the city.”

A young man with dark hair, wearing a grey hooded jacket, is looking upwards with a contemplative expression. He is positioned in the lower right foreground. The background consists of dense evergreen trees heavily laden with snow, creating a soft, white and green texture. The lighting is natural, suggesting an overcast day in winter.

*The Lord's power will give us strength
and deliver us from trials in His own
way and in His own time.*

*If we trust in the Lord's will, He will
increase our strength and power to
endure difficulties.*

Sources:

(True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference [2004], 8–9).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol 3 pg. 108-109

Richard G. Scott (“To Be Healed,” *Ensign*, May 1994, 8).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (“The Dead Who Die in the Lord,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1976, 108).

President Joseph F. Smith (in Conference Report, Oct. 1899, 70).

Joseph Smith in Liberty Jail by Liz Lemon Swindle

Quentin L. Cook, “Personal Peace: The Reward of Righteousness,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2013, 33–34)



Other Quotes on Trials

“...the right question to ask is not why good people have trials, but how shall good people respond when they are tried?... God does not deny us the experience we came here to have. He does not insulate us from tribulation or guarantee immunity from trouble. Much of the pain we suffer and inevitably impose upon others is self-induced through our own bad judgment, through poor choices...But much that happens to us in this life we cannot control; we only respond. Knowing what God has promised can provide the courage and faith we need. We are assured in the scriptures that we may know of a surety that the Lord does visit his people in their afflictions. Thus the promise is that in times of sorrow and affliction, if we endure and remain faithful and put our trust in him and are courageous, the Lord will visit us in our afflictions, strengthen us to carry our burdens and support us in our trials. He'll be with us to the end of our days, lift us at the last day to greater opportunities for service, and exalt us at last with him and reunited loved ones, and he will consecrate our afflictions to our gain.” Marion D. Hanks *A Loving, Communicating God* (Ensign, Nov 1992)

“Yes, each of us will walk the path of disappointment, perhaps due to an opportunity lost, a power misused, or a loved one not taught. The path of temptation, too, will be the path of each. “And it must needs be that the devil should tempt the children of men, or they could not be agents unto themselves... (D&C 29:39)...Likewise shall we walk the path of pain. We cannot go to heaven in a feather bed. The Savior of the world entered after great pain and suffering. We, as servants, can expect no more than the Master. Before Easter there must be a cross.” Thomas S. Monson *The Paths Jesus Walked* Ensign Sept 1992

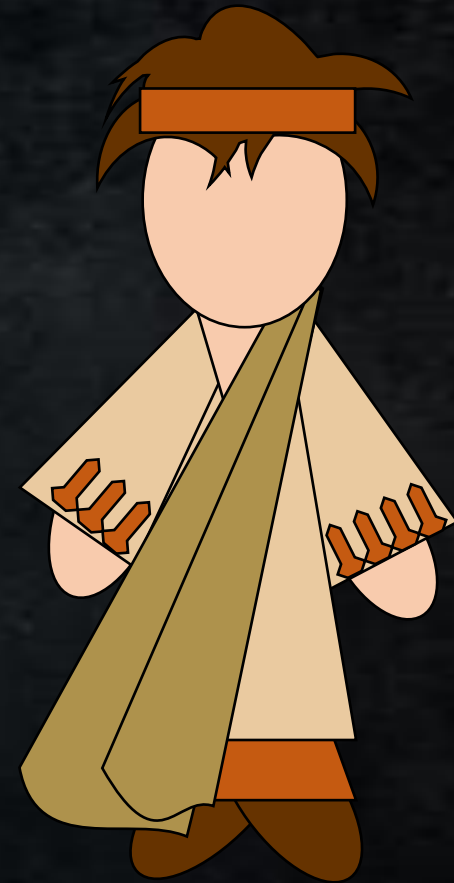
One cannot look at suffering, regardless of its causes or origins, without feeling pain and compassion. I can understand why someone who lacks an eternal perspective might see the horrifying news footage of starving children and man’s inhumanity to man and shake a fist at the heavens and cry, “If there is a God, how could he allow such things to happen?” ...God has put his plan in motion. It proceeds through natural laws that are, in fact, God’s laws. Since they are his, he is bound by them, as are we...he Lord can control the elements. For the most part, however, he does not cause but he allows nature to run its course. In this imperfect world, bad things sometimes happen....(However) much adversity is man-made...At times we will be affected adversely by the way other people choose to exercise their agency. Our Heavenly Father feels so strongly about protecting our agency that he allows his children to exercise it, either for good or for evil...But if we know and understand Heavenly Father’s plan, we realize that dealing with adversity is one of the chief ways we are tested. M. Russell Ballard *Answers to Life’s Questions* Ensign May 1995

Prayer and Faith Alma 14:26, 28:

“As the Savior entered the Garden of Gethsemane, His soul was exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death. In His agony, the only one He could turn to was His Father. He pleaded, ‘If it be possible, let this cup pass from me.’ But He added, ‘Nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.’ [Matthew 26:39; see also verse 38] Though sinless, the Savior was called upon to ‘[suffer] pains and afflictions and temptations of every kind,’ including the sicknesses and infirmities of His people. ‘[He] suffereth according to the flesh that he might take upon him the sins of his people, that he might blot out their transgressions according to the power of his deliverance.’ [Alma 7:11, 13.] Three times He prayed, ‘Father, thy will be done’ [see Matthew 26:39–44]. The cup was not removed. In humble, faithful prayer He was strengthened to go forward and fulfill His divine mission to prepare for our salvation, that we might repent, believe, obey, and obtain the blessings of eternity.

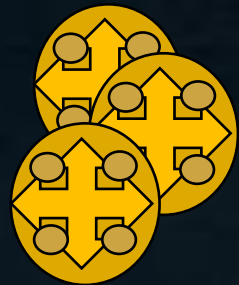
“The answers we receive in prayer may not be what we would desire. But in times of trouble, our prayers become a lifeline of love and tender mercy. In our pleading, we may be strengthened to go forward and fulfill all that we have been ordained to do. To His Saints living in perilous times, the Lord says, ‘Let your hearts be comforted ... ; for all flesh is in mine hands; be still and know that I am God’ [Doctrine and Covenants 101:16]” (Carol F. McConkie, **“The Soul’s Sincere Desire”** *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2016, 26).

Spiritual and Physical Suffering Alma 15-16



Zeezrom

A lawyer from the city of Ammonihah who tried to trick Alma and Amulek in the gospel words, but later became converted



Onties

Money offered by Zeezrom to Amulek to renounce the words of the Lord

Recap

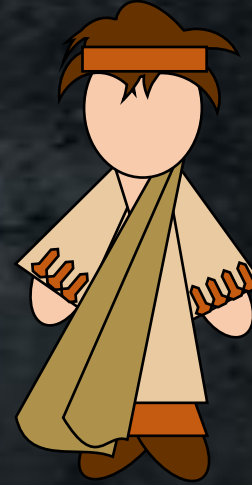
Fire

Alma and Amulek watched as the faithful people of Ammonihah were burned because they believed in Alma's words



Amulek

A citizen of Ammonihah who received a visitation from an angel about Alma, that he is a servant of God



Alma

Son of Alma and missionary to the city of Ammonihah and surrounding areas



Ammonihah

A city outside of Zarahemla of Nephites who were after the order of Nehor, who taught priestcraft and started his own church



Guilt



“Guilt is to our spirit what pain is to our body—a warning of danger and a protection from additional damage.”

David A. Bednar

What purpose does guilt serve?

Physical VS Spiritual

Physical illness is not always associated with sin.

Sometimes spiritual illness comes as a result of sin or emotional wounds.



The only one who can accomplish the healing of a sick soul is the Great Physician Himself, our Father in Heaven, through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Elder Malcolm S. Jeppsen

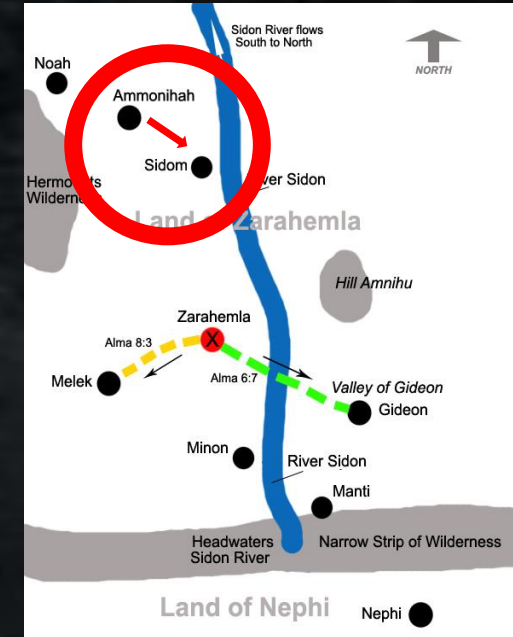
Spiritual and Physical Suffering



Zeezrom and the other believers who were cast out went to Sidon

Zeezrom thought Alma and Amulek had died

Zeezrom's physical illness was the result of the guilt and torment he felt because he had committed so many serious sins.



Balm of Gilead:

“It is painful to be the victim. But have you not yet learned how much more painful it is to be the offender?

How precious is that spiritual balm of Gilead, for there *is* a spirit in man.

There are spiritual disorders and spiritual diseases that can cause intense suffering.”

Elder Boyd K. Packer

Seeking Help—Pleading Mercy

After Zeezrom finds out that Alma and Amulek are alive he desires them to come to him



Alma exercised the priesthood he held

“And then Alma cried unto the Lord, saying: O Lord our God, have mercy on this man, and heal him according to his faith which is in Christ.”



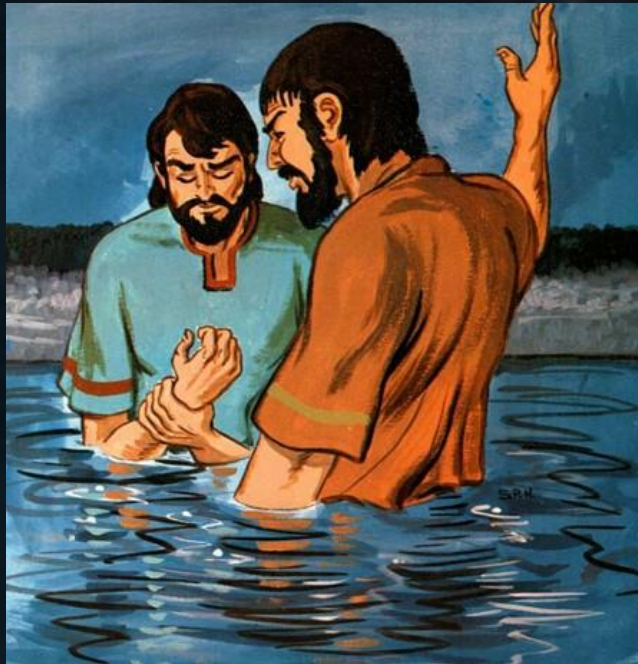
“If one has the faith to be healed physically, he has the faith by which that cleansing and healing power can work a spiritual miracle and purify him from the stains of sin.
Bruce R. McConkie

“And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.”
James 5:15



Leaped and Baptized

Through our faith in Jesus Christ, we can be healed



“Zeezrom leaped upon his feet, and began to walk; and this was done to the great astonishment of all the people; and the knowledge of this went forth throughout all the land of Sidom.”



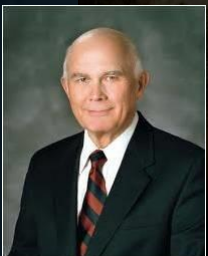
“And Alma baptized Zeezrom unto the Lord; and he began from that time forth to preach unto the people.”

“When we have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we must have trust in him. We must trust him enough that we are content to accept his will, knowing that he knows what is best for us. ...

“... Faith, no matter how strong it is, cannot produce a result contrary to the will of him whose power it is. ... We cannot have true faith in the Lord without also having complete trust in the Lord’s will and in the Lord’s timing.”

Dallin H. Oaks

If a person is not immediately healed physically, it does not necessarily mean that he or she lacks faith in Jesus Christ or is not worthy. During times such as these, individuals should continue to exercise faith in Jesus Christ, seek to do His will, and seek to learn from the experience.



Blessings in Sidon

Alma established a church

Alma consecrated priests and teachers

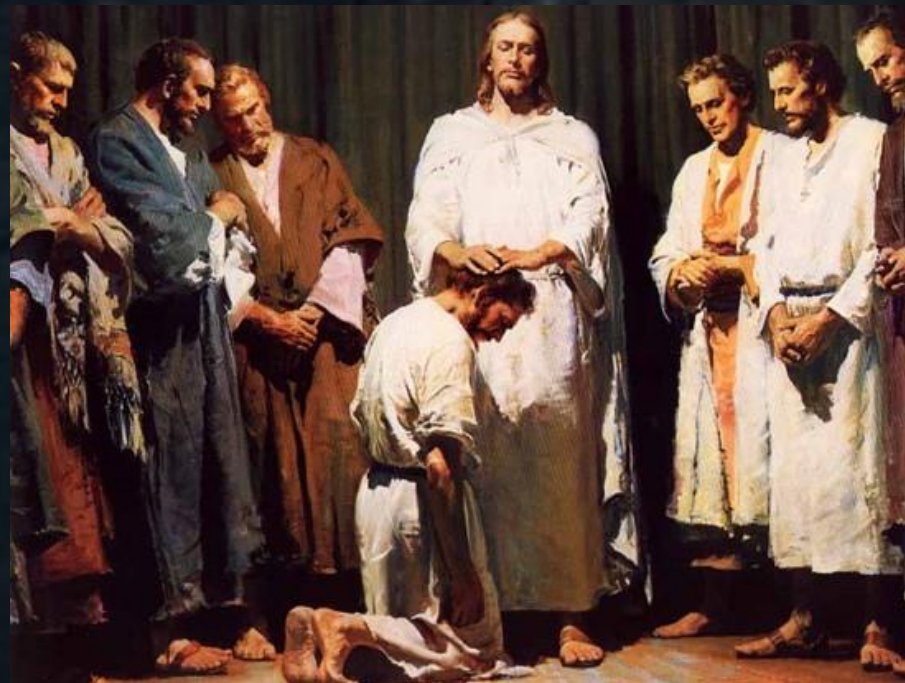
Alma baptized those who were desirous

Many came from all the region and were baptized

“In our day we would say, “ordained priests and teachers.” Literally, in consecrate is to “set apart,” or to “make holy.” We note that both priests and teachers were given the authority to baptize.”

JFM and RLM

Because there were no Levites among the Nephites the priesthood was of the Melchizedek Order.



A Price to Be Paid--Sacrifice

What About Amulek?

What happened to Amulek's wealth?

It was left in Ammonihah

What happened to his friends and family?

They rejected him

What happened to anyone he knew that believed him?

They were burned

What happened to the rest of his people?

They were destroyed by the Lamanites

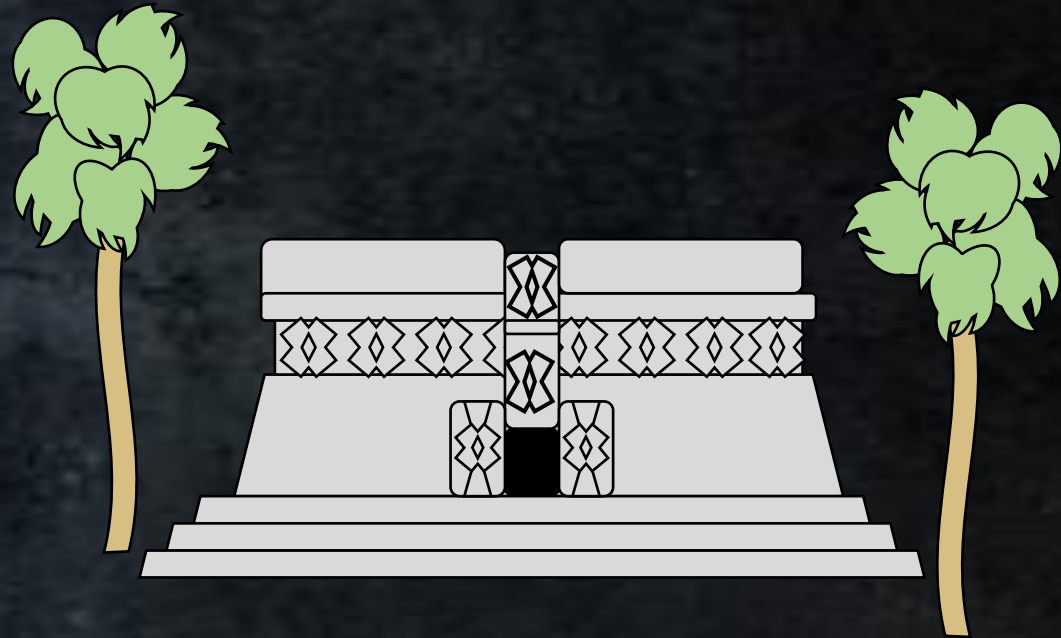


“The Saints sacrifice everything; but, strictly speaking, there is no sacrifice about it. If you give a penny for a million of gold! A handful of earth for a planet! A temporary worn-out tenement for one glorified, that will exist, abide, and continue to increase throughout a never-ending eternity, what a sacrifice to be sure!”

Brigham Young

Administer and Strengthen

Alma makes sure Sidon is secure in their testimony and prays for them continually



"...Alma having seen all these things, therefore he took Amulek and came over to the land of Zarahemla, and took him to his own house, and did administer unto him in his tribulations, and strengthened him in the Lord.

"And thus ended the tenth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi."

Stiffnecked People

The People of Ammonihah were hard hearted and didn't believe in repentance

The 11th year the 2nd month and 5th day of the Reign of the Judges



The Lamanites suddenly attacked the city of Ammonihah and destroyed its inhabitants before the Nephites could raise up an army to go against them.

Some Nephites were taken captive

Zorum—the Nephite Captain

He is introduced in the Book of Mormon about 81 BC

He was the chief captain over the Nephite armies

He had two sons, Aha and Lehi

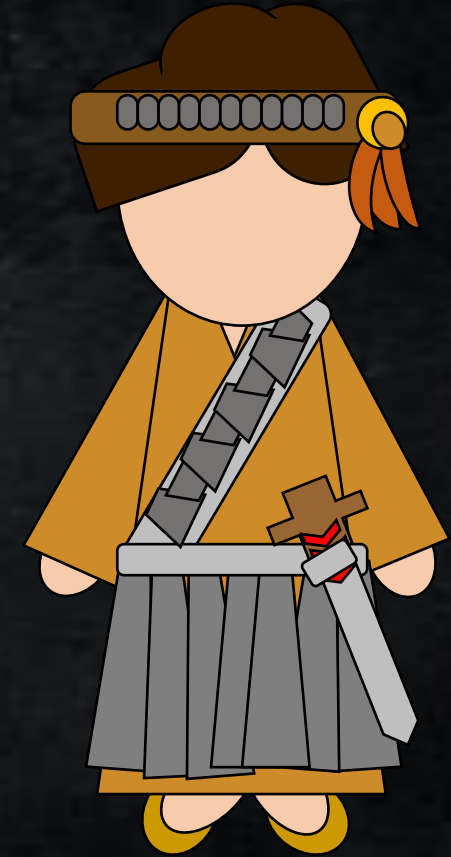
He inspired Alma to take up forces to capture the Nephites taken by the Lamanites in the land of Ammonihah

Alma, from the Lord's command, instructed him where they could find the Lamanites

He and his two sons marched forth to engage the Lamanites

He was able to scatter the Lamanites and drove them back into the wilderness

He helped in aiding the Nephite prisoners to return to their homes



Their Cause is Just

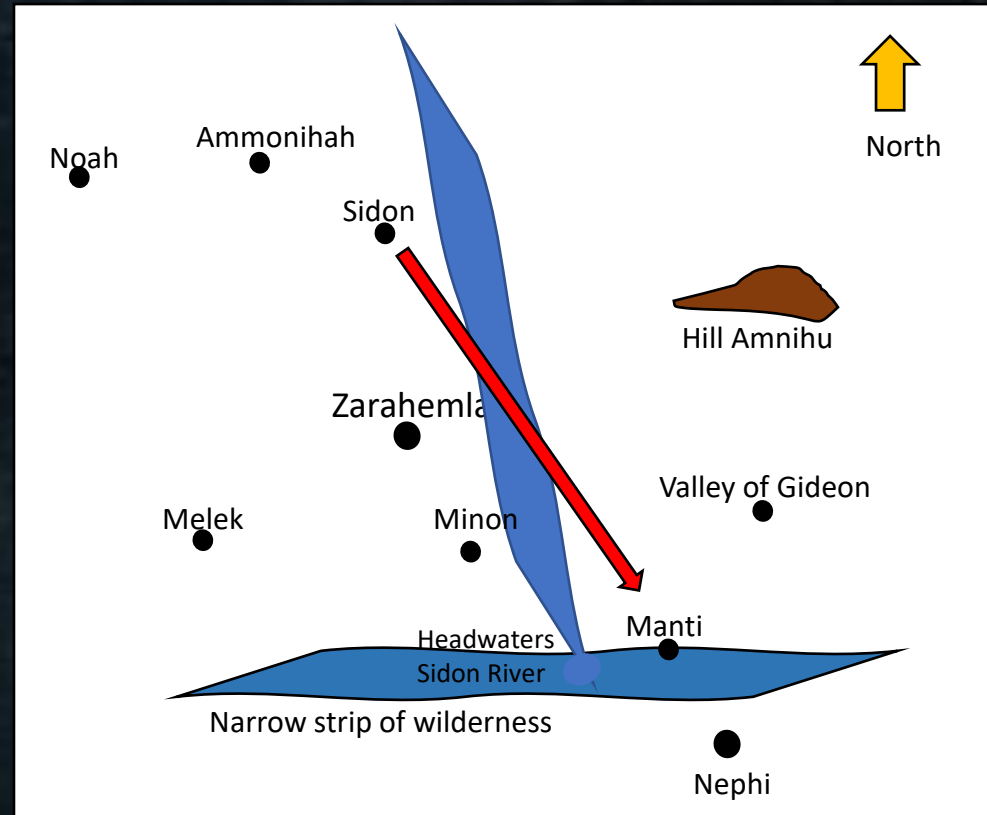
Alma Prays

The Lamanites were angry because some of the Lamanites had converted over to the Nephites
Alma 24: 17-30

The Lord tells Alma:

The Lamanites will cross the river Sidon in the south wilderness, away up beyond the borders of the land of Manti.

They will meet them, and the Lord will deliver the captives into their hands.



The words of the Lord spoken through His prophets will always be fulfilled

God allows men to fight when there is a 'just cause'

Help Line



“What if you are lost and have no map? Suppose you are alone. You do not know where you are. What can you do? You call for help! You call home! Call the Church! Pray! When connected with your help line, you learn that you need to make a climb here or a turn there to get back on course. Or you may have to go back to the beginning in order to be certain that you can get where you want to go.”

Russell M. Nelson

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” (Matthew 7:7-8).

In order to find and receive, we must seek and ask.

As we seek and follow guidance from the Lord’s prophets, the Lord strengthens and protects us.

Desolation of Nephors

Lamanites driven out of the land

Every living soul of Ammonihah was destroyed (Prophecy)

The City was destroyed—even though it was a ‘great city’

“carcasses were mangled by dogs and wild beasts”

Dead bodies heaped up and covered in shallow graves

There was a stench that kept people away

The people of Nehor remained desolate

Desolation of Abomination



Building After the Manner of the Jews

Alma and Amulek built up their sanctuaries

A normal place for a large gathering or meeting
was usually at a temple



“Wherefore I, Jacob, gave unto them these words as I taught them in the temple, having first obtained mine errand from the Lord.”
Jacob 1:17

“...I come up into the temple this day that I might declare unto you the word of God.”
Jacob 2:2

“...thereby they might gather themselves together, to go up to the temple to hear the words which his father should speak unto them.”
Mosiah 1:18

No Inequality—All Will Receive

The Lord poured out all his spirit on all the face of the land to prepare the minds of the children of men...to prepare their hearts to receive the word.

“28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke.

31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.”

Joel 2:28-31

“As there was a spirit that went forth to prepare the way before the appearance of Christ to the Nephites, so there is a spirit that must go forth to prepare the way before his final return.”

JFM and RLM



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p. 116-117, 121

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Spiritual and Physical Disorders:

“I [once] asked a doctor of family medicine how much of his time was devoted purely to correcting physical disorders. He has a large practice, and after thoughtfully considering, he answered, ‘Not more than 20 percent. The rest of the time I seem to be working on problems that very much affect the physical well-being of my patients but do not originate in the body.

“‘These physical disorders,’ the doctor concluded, ‘are merely symptoms of some other kind of trouble.’

“In recent generations one after another of the major diseases has yielded to control or cure. Some very major ones still remain, but we now seem able to do something about most of them.

“There is another part of us, not so tangible, but quite as real as our physical body. This intangible part of us is described as mind, emotion, intellect, temperament, and many other things. Very seldom is it described as spiritual.

“But there is a *spirit* in man; to ignore it is to ignore reality. There are spiritual disorders, too, and spiritual diseases that can cause intense suffering.

“The body and the spirit of man are bound together” (Boyd K. Packer, “The Balm of Gilead,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1977, 59).