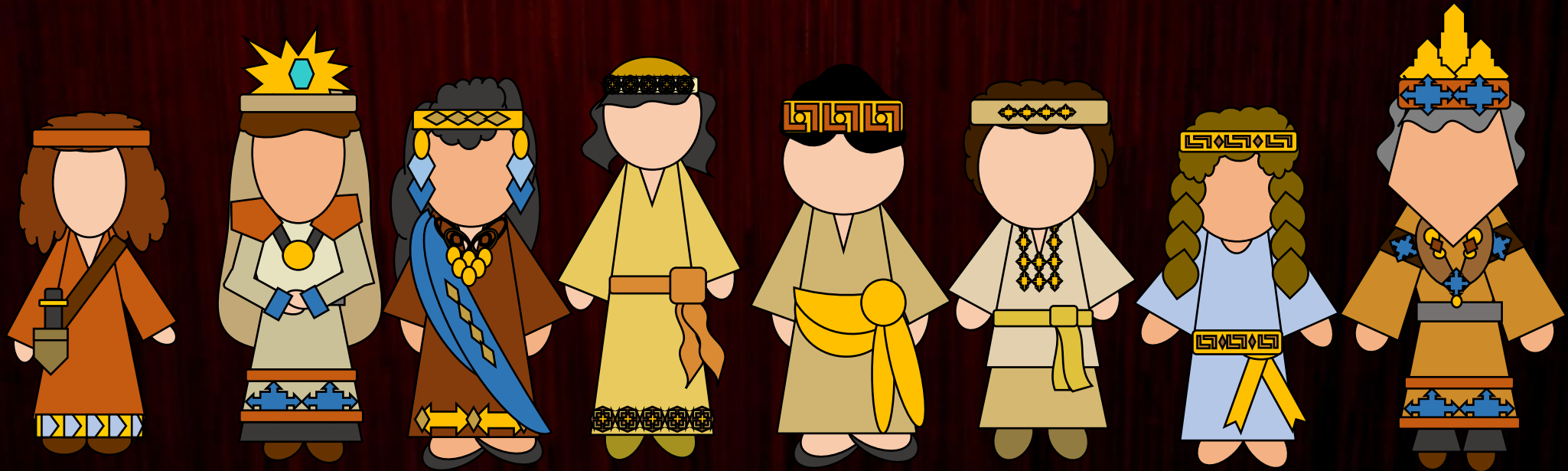
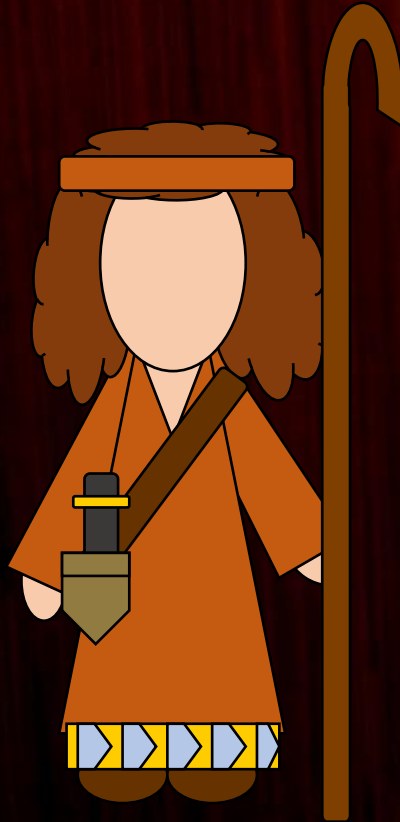


# Alma 17-22

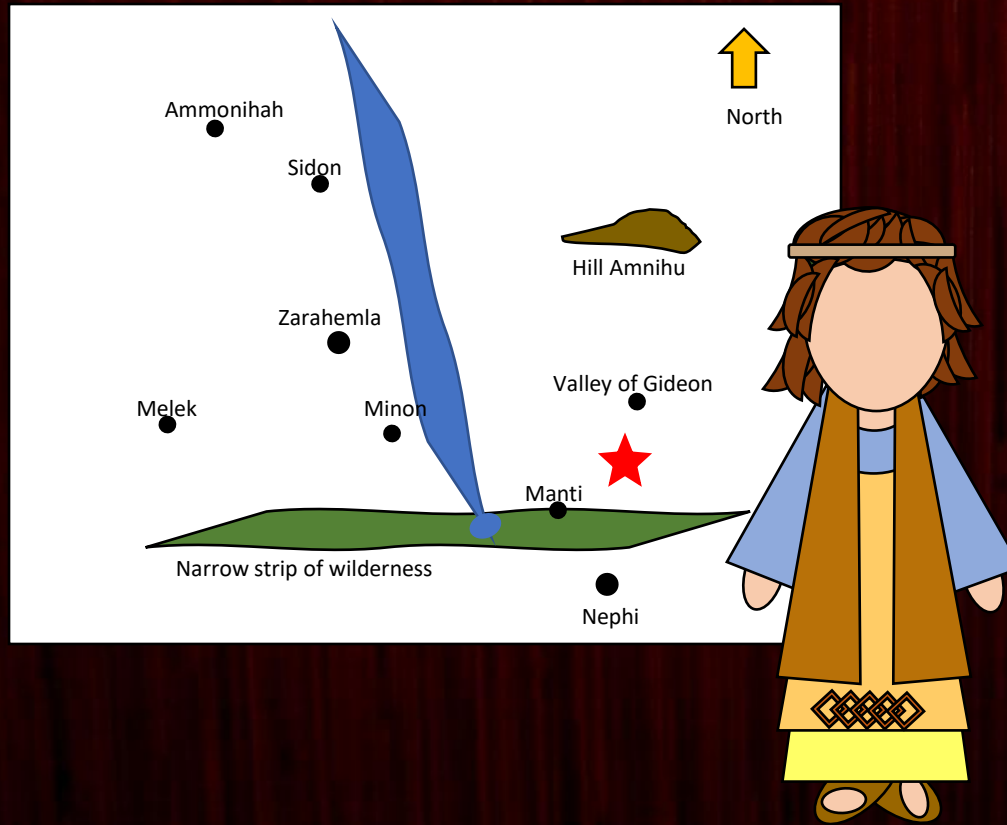


# Ammon, a Servant of King Lamoni

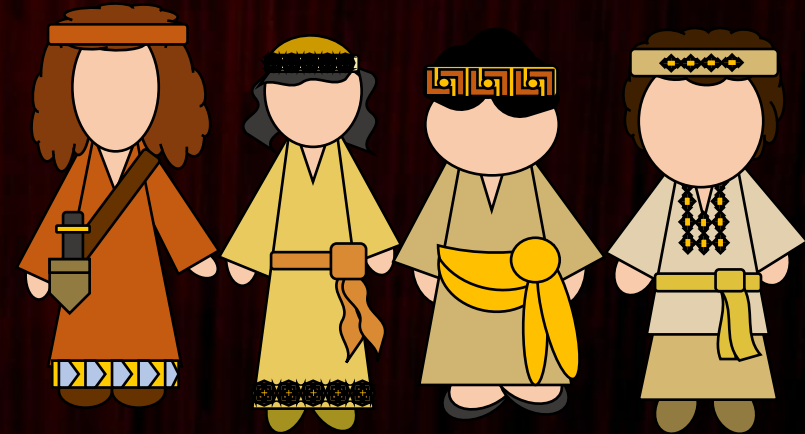
Alma 17



# The Meeting—14 years later



While Alma was on his way to Manti from the land of Gideon he met up with the sons of Mosiah



Ammon

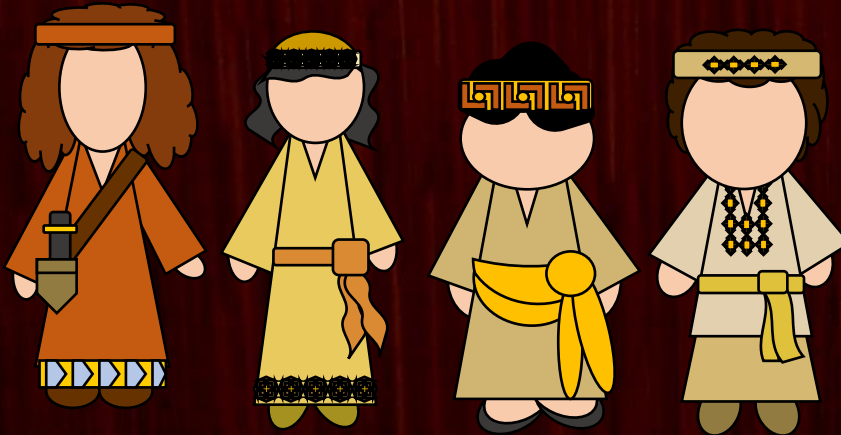
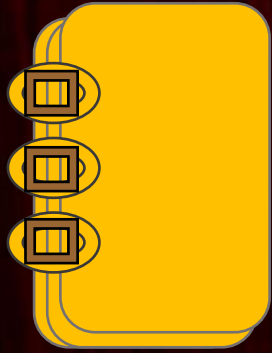
Aaron

Himni

Omner

“...sons of Mosiah were with Alma at the time the angel first appeared unto him...”

# Wax Strong in the Knowledge of Truth



They were men of sound understanding by searching the scriptures

*“But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting; therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority of God.”*



**If we search the scriptures diligently, we will wax strong in the knowledge of the truth and know the word of God**



# To Prepare for a Mission



“You can increase in your desire to serve God (see D&C 4:3), and you can begin to think as missionaries think, to read what missionaries read, to pray as missionaries pray, and to feel what missionaries feel.

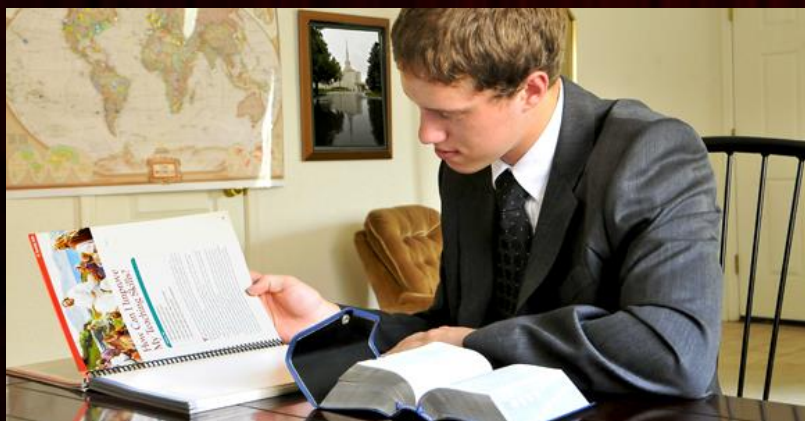
You can avoid the worldly influences that cause the Holy Ghost to withdraw, and you can grow in confidence in recognizing and responding to spiritual promptings.



Line upon line and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, you can gradually become the missionary you hope to be and the missionary the Savior expects. ...

“The preparation I am describing is not oriented only toward your missionary service as a (18) 19- or 20- or 21-year-old. ... You are preparing for a lifetime of missionary work. ... We are missionaries always”

Elder David A. Bednar



As we pray and fast, we can receive the spirit of prophecy and revelation and teach with power.



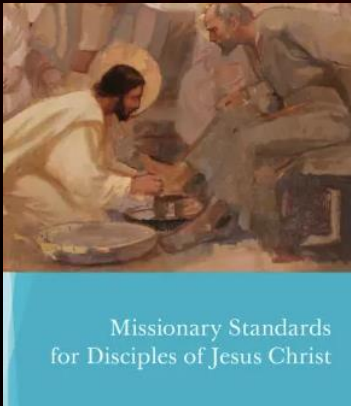
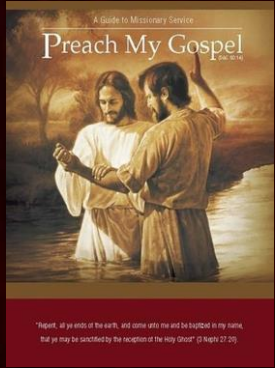
“To young men of the Aaronic Priesthood and to you young men who are becoming elders: I repeat what prophets have long taught—that every worthy, able young man should prepare to serve a mission. Missionary service is a priesthood duty—an obligation the Lord expects of us who have been given so very much.

Young men, I admonish you to prepare for service as a missionary. Keep yourselves clean and pure and worthy to represent the Lord.

Maintain your health and strength. Study the scriptures. Where such is available, participate in seminary or institute. Familiarize yourself with the missionary handbook *Preach My Gospel*.

“A word to you young sisters: while you do not have the same priesthood responsibility as do the young men to serve as full-time missionaries, you also make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome your service.”

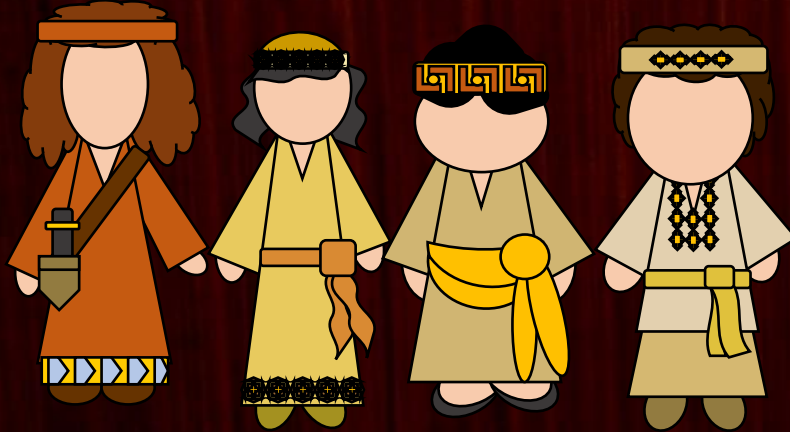
President Thomas S. Monson





# Instrument in the Hands of God

## Setting a Good Example



**“The soul that has borne  
no burden knows no  
strength”**

JFM and RLM

The Sons of Mosiah:

Men of sound understanding

They had given themselves to much prayer and fasting

They had the spirit of prophecy and revelation

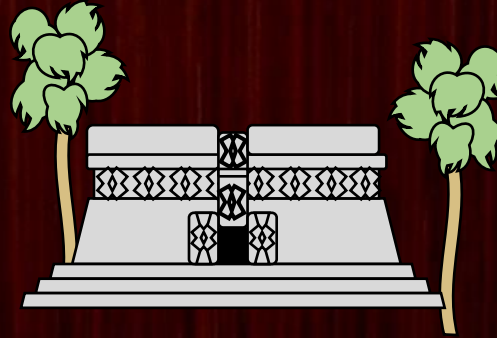
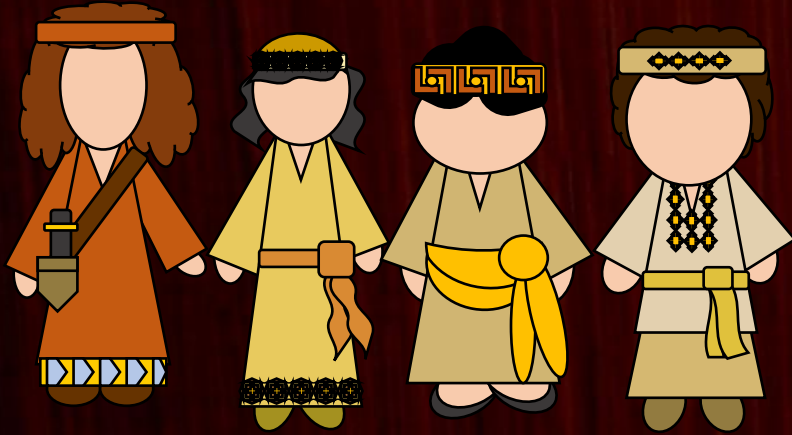
They taught with power and authority

Many were brought before the altar of God—  
including the Anti-Lehi-Nephites

Labored in the spirit—suffered much

When we are patient in our afflictions, we can serve as good examples to those around us and become instruments in the Lord’s hands

# Their Story—1<sup>st</sup> year of the Reign of Judges



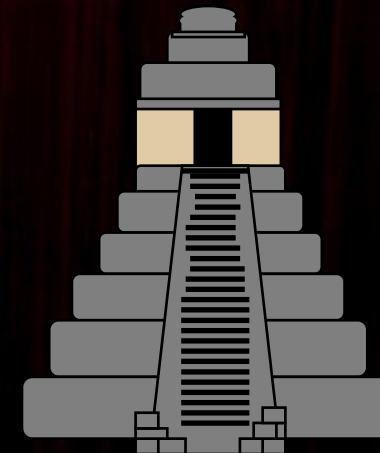
They left their father for a mission to the land of Nephi  
A place where the people hated the Nephites

“Often our sincere love  
for people and our  
good example can do  
more to interest them  
in the gospel than what  
we might say.”

Student Manual



They knew they would face afflictions and persecution.  
The Lord visited them and comforted them.





# The Lamanites

From the time Nephi and his people separated themselves and their families from Laman and Lemuel, the Lamanites fell deeper and deeper into darkness

Nephi reports:

“an idle people, full of mischief and subtlety” (2 Nephi 5:24)

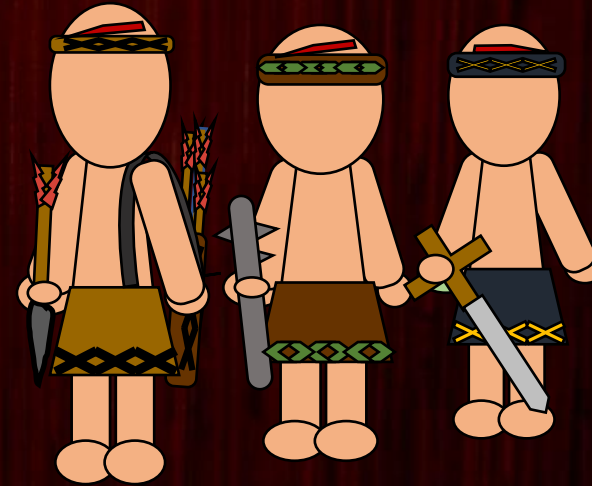
Enos reports:

“they became wild, and ferocious, and a bloodthirsty people, full of idolatry and filthiness”

(Enos 1:20)

“loved murder and would drink the blood of beasts”

(Jarom 6)



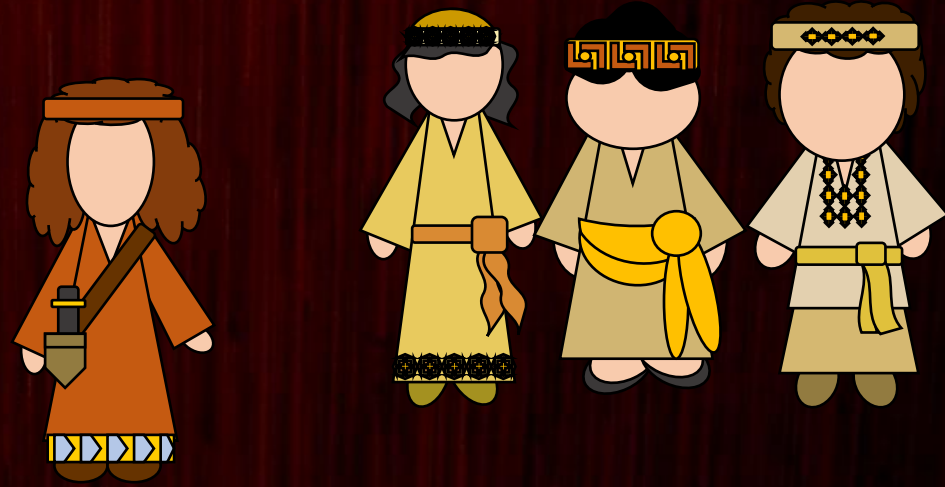
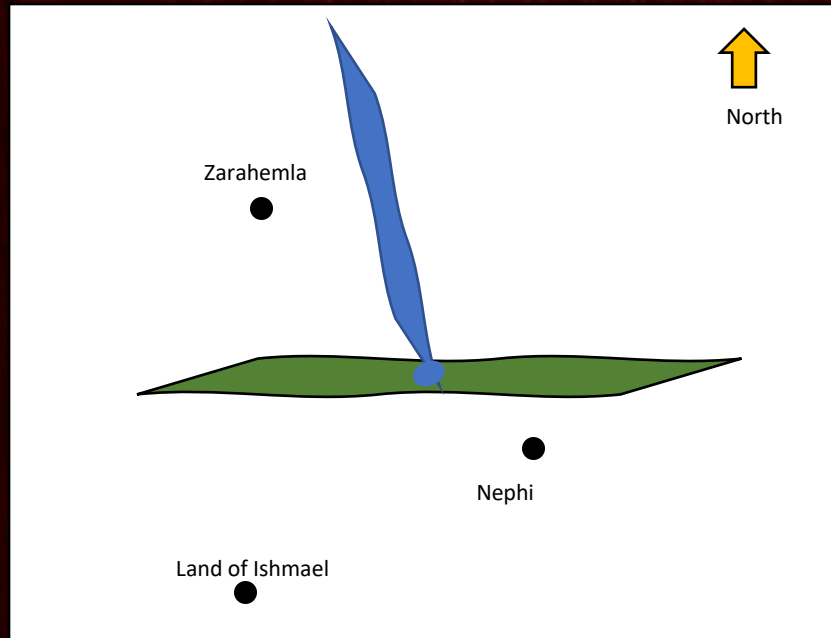
Mormon’s Statement about the Sons of Mosiah:

“... for they had undertaken to preach the word of God to a wild and a hardened and ferocious people.”

(Alma 17:14)



# Separated themselves



Ammon went to the Land of Ishmael

Customs of the Lamanites:

To bind strangers

To carry before the king

If the king so wished he would have them  
killed or taken into captivity and put in prison

# King Lamoni

He was a descent of Ishmael—the one who journeyed with Lehi and his family

He was the King of the Land of Ishmael

He is introduced in the Book of Mormon around 91 BC

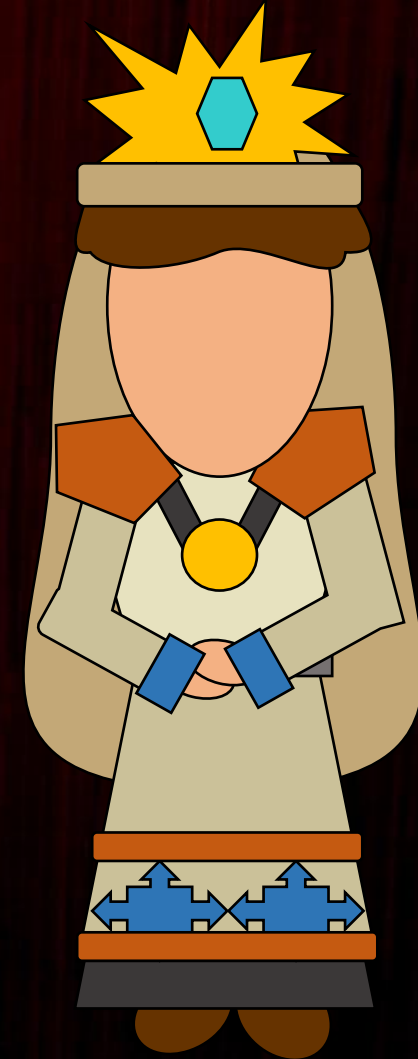
Ammon having been bound and taken captive was brought before Lamoni and he was pleased with Ammon and released him from the bands

Ammon became his servant and watched over his flocks

Ammon teaches him about the plan of salvation, and he is overcome by the spirit and fell into a stupor for 2 days and 2 nights

After he arose, he testified to his wife of the coming Messiah (Alma 19:13)

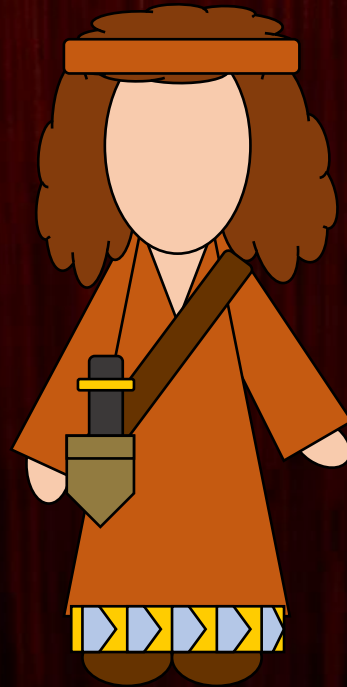
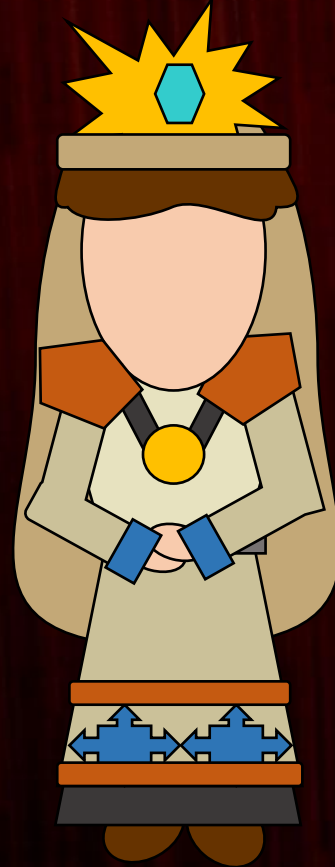
The royal household and others were converted along with him, and the church was established in that part of the land





# Brought Before the King

Ammon was bound and carried before King Lamoni



Ammon said he wanted to dwell with them for awhile or all his days

The King wanted Ammon to marry one of his daughters

Ammon wanted to be the King's servant



Custom: Ammon went with the other servants to watch over the King's flocks

# Service Before Preaching

“It appears that Ammon wanted to win the King’s confidence through first serving him.

What do you suppose might have happened if Ammon had immediately called the king to repentance?

Ammon had faith that an opportunity would arise for him to demonstrate the power of God that was within him.”

Student Manual



## Preparation

Preparing Spiritually to testify of Christ

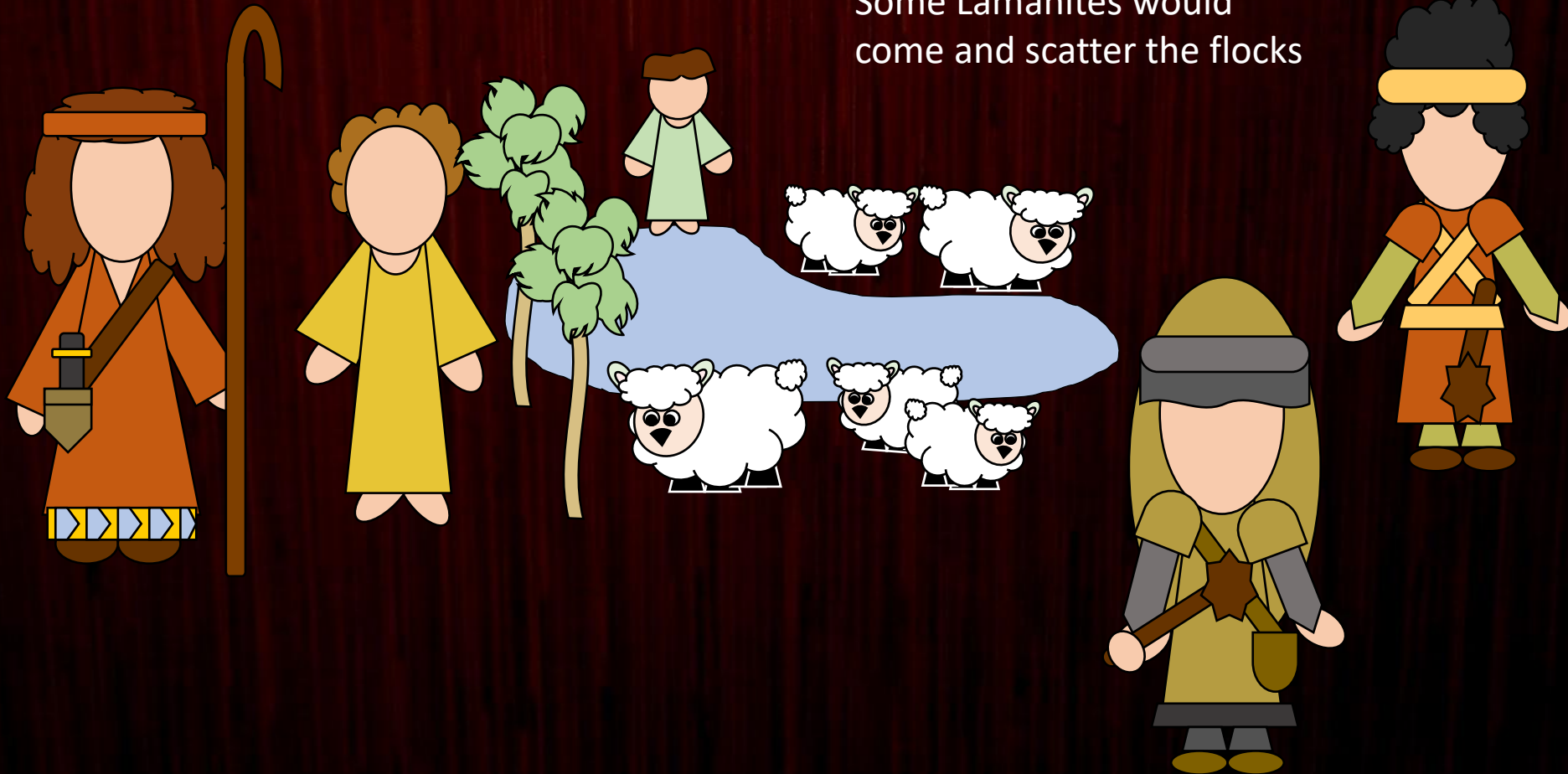
Gaining a love for those whom you teach

Being patient with your approach of the gospel and all it has to offer—some people can jump right in and grasp the gospel; others need a slower approach—step by step

# Watching the Flocks

Ammon and other servants drove the flocks to the water—Waters of Sebus

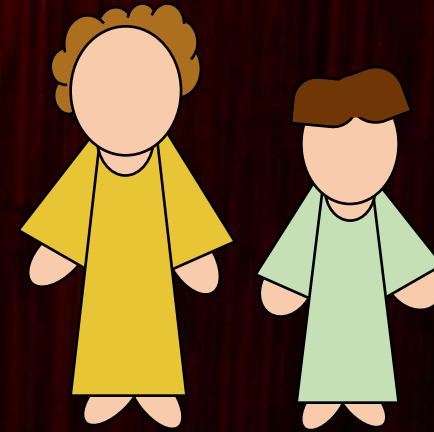
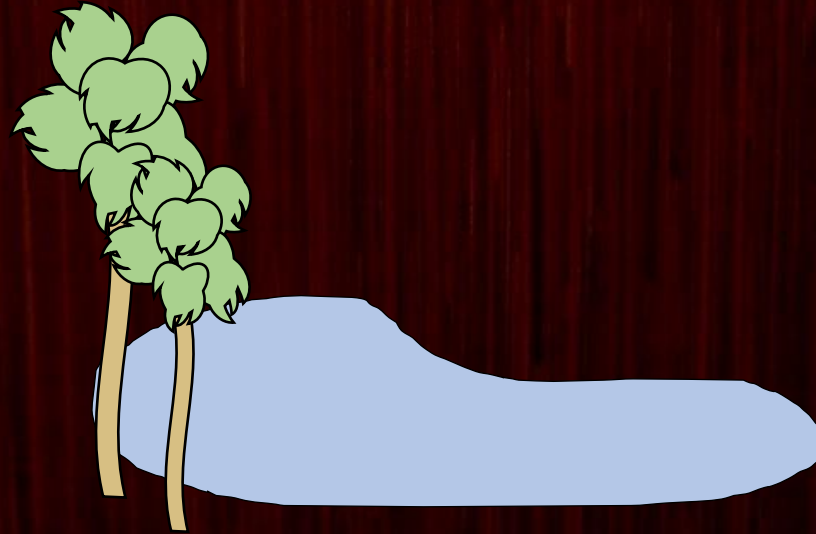
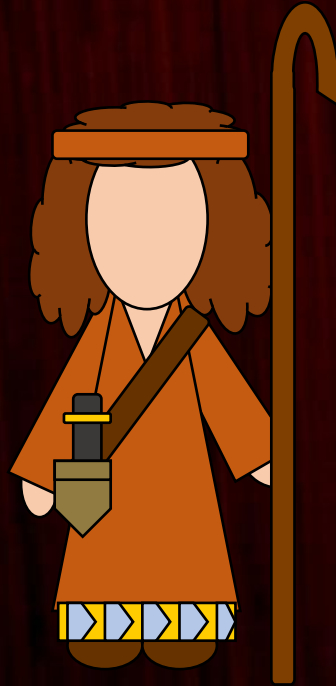
Some Lamanites would come and scatter the flocks





# Fearful Servants

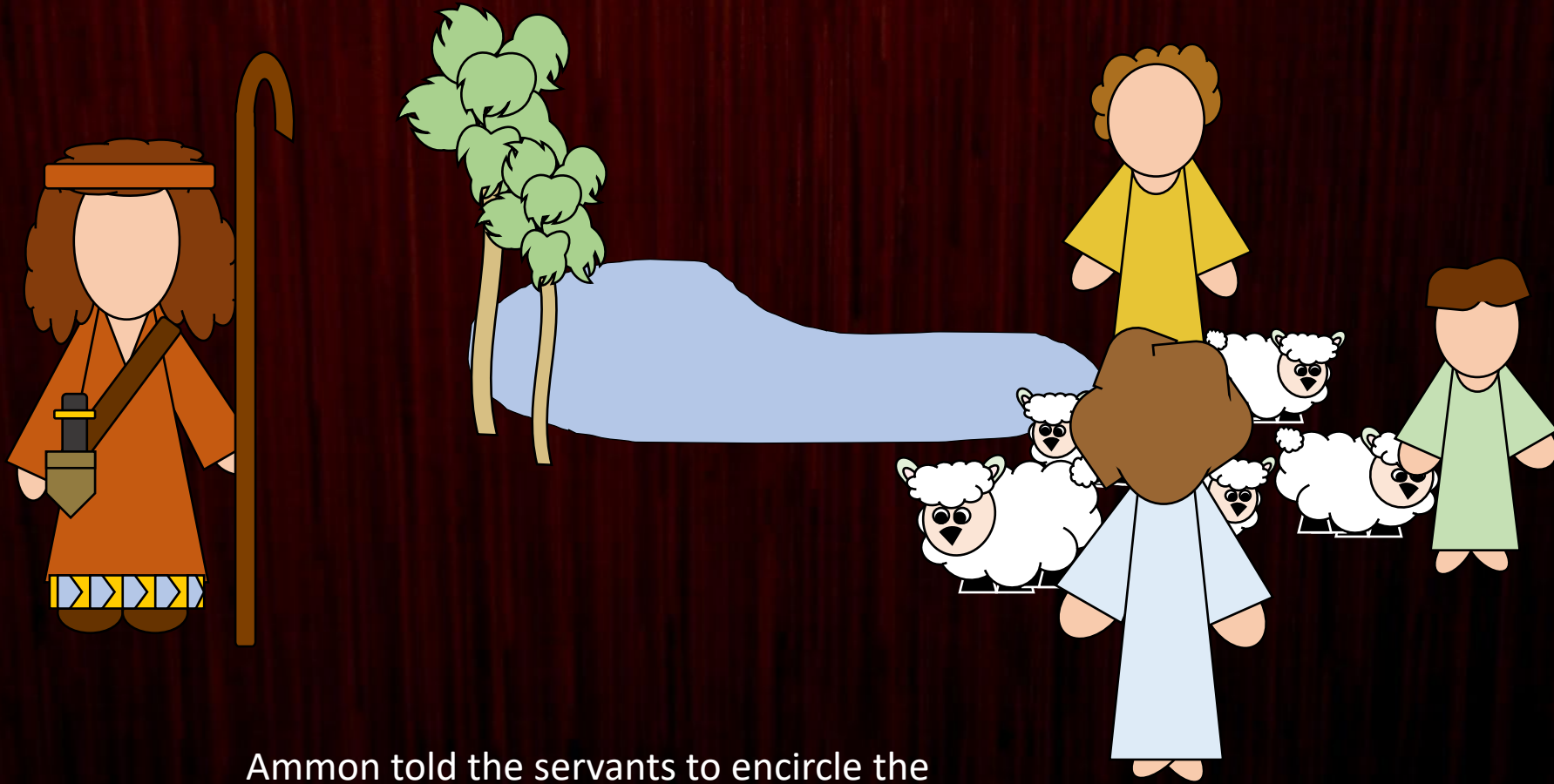
The servants were afraid that the king would slay them for losing the flocks



They went and searched for the flocks, then gathered them back to the water

# Rescue

They gathered them back to the water



Ammon told the servants to encircle the flocks and he would take care of the Lamanites who came to scatter the flocks

# Stone Throwing

The Lamanites did not fear Ammon

They also had stones but could not hit Ammon

Ammon threw stones at them





# Taking Arms



But Ammon smote  
off their arms



They lifted their  
clubs to smite  
Ammon

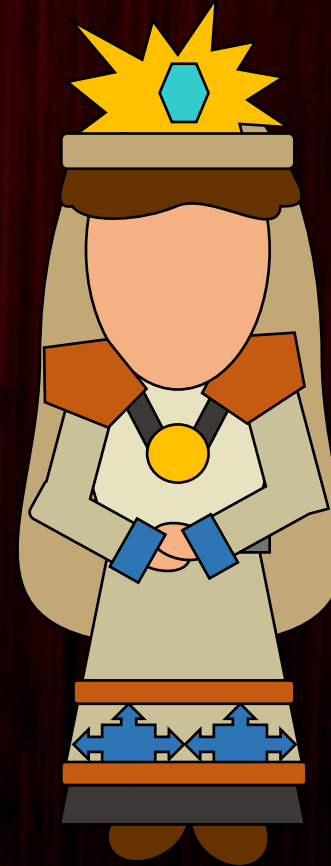
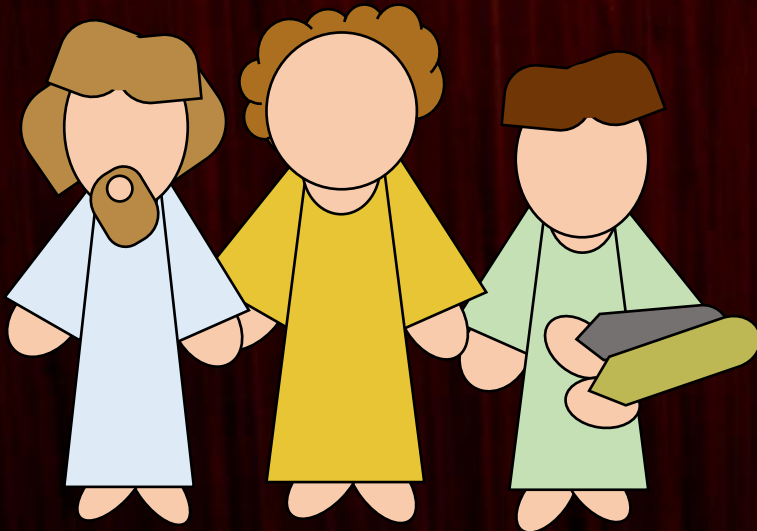


After Ammon had taken  
many arms, they fled

# Returning to the King

Ammon returned to the watering hole

The servants  
returned to the  
king to testify of all  
that happened





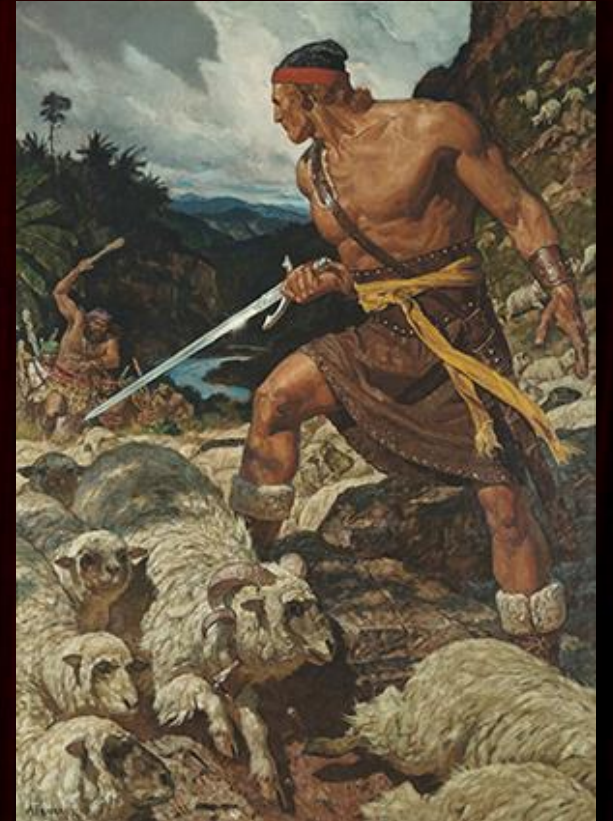
“Now, we may read this as a story about some shepherds trying to round up some missing sheep, but the message is much more powerful and significant than that.

Ammon was a missionary with noble intentions to bring the king and his kingdom back to the fold of righteousness, to the well of living water. The challenge looked daunting to those who could see only, in everyday terms, sheep strung out on hillsides and not enough manpower to round them up. They were discouraged and fearful that the king would discover their loss.

Ammon not only led the force to recapture the sheep, he drove away the evil men who caused the problems; and his heroic efforts persuaded the king to follow him and to follow the Savior.

Ammon teaches us that no matter our circumstances, we can be an example to others, we can lift them, we can inspire them to seek righteousness, and we can bear testimony to all of the power of Jesus Christ.”

Elder Robert D. Hales



**Through service, we can help others  
prepare to accept the gospel.**





Through service, we can help others  
prepare to accept the gospel.

“As a pure expression of our love and concern, we can reach out to those who have need of our help. ... There are countless ways to serve.

“Through our heartfelt kindness and service, we can make friends with those whom we serve. From these friendships come better understanding of our devotion to the gospel and a desire to learn more about us. ...

“When we do this, brothers and sisters, the honest in heart will feel our sincerity and our love. Many will want to know more about us. ...

“In all of our service, we need to be sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Ghost. The still, small voice will let us know who needs our help and what we can do to help them.”

M. Russell Ballard



# A Rescue

What are some dangers we have around us that we would need rescuing from?

Illegal drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, etc.

Pornography

Immorality

Immodest dress

Inappropriate language



Who Are Our Ammon's of Today?

Our Parents  
Bishops and Leaders  
Teachers and Neighbors  
Prophets

What can we do to be rescued?

Obedience to our parents

Studying scriptures and applying them in our daily lives

Listening to the Prophets and their council

Also, By Using the Atonement



## Sources:

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon* Vol. 3 pg. 125

Student Manual Book of Mormon Religion 121-122 pg. 245-246

President Thomas S. Monson (“As We Meet Together Again,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 5–6).

*Who’s Who in the Book of Mormon* Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg 104-105

Elder Robert D. Hales “*When Thou Art Converted, Strengthen Thy Brethren* May 1997 *Ensign*

M. Russell Ballard, “Finding Joy through Loving Service,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2011, 48



# 7 tips for sister missionaries

The time between when a young woman decides to go on a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to the day she enters the Missionary Training Center is filled with much to do. It can be difficult to determine what is necessary versus what can slide. Here are some things prospective sister missionaries should consider doing (as many wish they'd done) before entering the MTC.

**1. It's time to go shopping.** If you're leaving for a mission in the summer or spring, you might have a difficult time finding proper clothing for the full 18 months. A salesperson laughed at one sister when she asked the clerk where the long skirts were in June. You need to purchase a basic year-round wardrobe since you might not have access to clothing stores once out on the mission.

Pay attention to materials sent from the LDS Church's Missionary Department or mission president and his wife (or contact your mission president's wife, if possible) about what to wear, as some standards can change from mission to mission. For instance, in one mission the sisters wore skirts just below the knee, but in another most of the sisters were on bikes and ankle-length skirts were easier to wrap around a bike bar.

Weather can also factor into what you need. Those nice business jackets and fitted skirts don't come out often if you're in the jungles of South America, but will be necessary if you're at a visitor's center. For wherever you go, make sure you get a decent pair of comfortable dress walking shoes.

**2. Buy church-approved music you like.** Those two Especially for Youth CDs you got for your 14th birthday are going to grind on you after 18 months of nothing but. Do pay attention to music that has been approved for missionaries in your mission.

**3. Research your mission.** Talk to those who have gone there, read the information sent to you about your mission, contact your mission president (if possible) and learn about the local customs. A mission experience varies drastically from one mission to another and even from mission president to president.

**4. Start an exercise routine.** A Mormon mission is physically taxing and the more fit you are now, the easier the transition will be. Many sisters (and elders) spend the first few months of their mission in pain because they're sore from going from Internet surfer to constant biker or walker.

**5. Step up studying of your scriptures and other doctrine.** A mission can be very spiritually fulfilling, but there needs to be a very strong foundation for it. Every day people are going to be challenging your beliefs. You need to be strengthening your testimony because in the mission field it's going to get torn down. Many skip this important step because they think that in a few months they will be studying nonstop so it doesn't matter. But your testimony will come under fire, and if you're not prepared it will be much like not exercising, you will be spiritually sore for a while.

**6. Develop an after-your-mission plan so you don't wallow when you come home.** If you're in school, talk to your professors and administrators to determine what you'll need to do to get re-enrolled. (While on their missions, some sisters received special permission to go online and register for the semester after they came home.) Talk to your employer about your work options. Will you have a job when you get home?

If you're going to be seeking employment or enrollment in a different place, get the necessary recommendations and references in order before you leave, since a year and a half can make it more difficult for people to remember you.

**7. Before you leave, do some of the things you love that you won't be able to for the next 18 months.** Maybe you love to travel, so take a weekend getaway before your mission. Or maybe you'd rather spend an evening reading your favorite book one last time before you leave. I went white-water rafting the weekend before I went into the MTC. My only warning is to keep it within reason, so it's not too difficult to walk away from and not something that will bring about unnecessary injuries.

*Melissa Dymock is the author of "Sisters: A Modern Girl's Guide to Serving a Mission" published by Covenant Communications.*

*April 12, 2012 Desert News*

# How did Ammon Prepare for a Mission?

Alma 17:25	Ammon Meets the king and asks to be his servant
Alma 17:29	Ammon wants to win the hearts of his fellow-servants
Alma 18:3	Ammon's actions show he is a friend to the king
Alma 18:9	Ammon feeds the King's horses
Alma 18:9	Ammon Prepares the chariots
Alma 18:14	Ammon asks the king what he would have him do, and what he desires to know
Alma 18:24	Ammon is now prepared to teach

“Don't Miss This in the Book of Mormon” by Emily Belle Freeman and David Butler

**“They Taught and Did Minister One to Another”**

**James M. Paramore**

**April 1986 Gen. Conf**

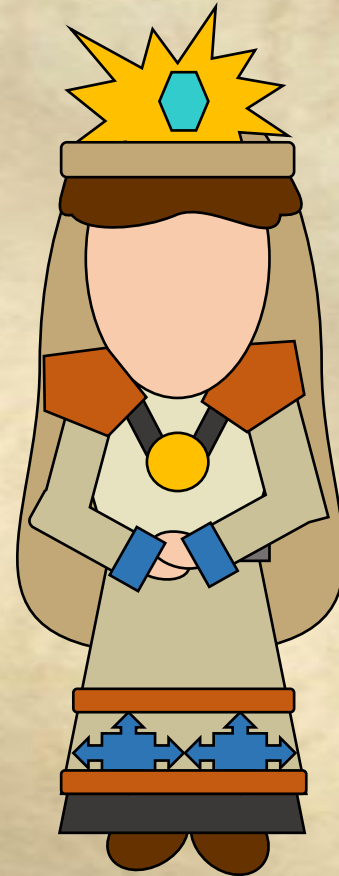
## **Ammon Prepared for a Mission**

- 1.The desire of his heart was to bring people to God.
- 2.He was always a servant, a minister. He was out among the people.
- 3.He prepared himself by fasting, studying the scriptures, and prayer.
- 4.He went forth believing he could make a difference with the help of God.
- 5.He anxiously looked for every possible opportunity to serve.
- 6.He kept all of the commandments.
- 7.As a result of doing all of these things, he taught with power and authority and established the Church of God.



# AMMON THE MISSIONARY

ALMA 18



# RECAP—TRUE OR FALSE

1. Because King Lamoni was pleased with Ammon, he offered one of his daughters to be Ammon's wife.

(See Alma 17:24.)



False

2. Ammon said that he wanted to be the king's servant.

(See Alma 17:25.)



False

3. Ammon feared for his life when a group of Lamanites scattered the flocks of the king.

(See Alma 17:28–30.)

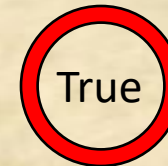
True



False

4. With great power, Ammon fought off the Lamanites and cut off the arms of those who raised their clubs against him.

( See Alma 17:37–38.)



False

5. Ammon returned to King Lamoni with the arms of the Lamanites (See Alma 17:39, Alma 18:8)

True



False

# See Reader's Theater for Alma 18:1-35





# QUESTIONS

**Why do you think Lamoni was silent before Ammon?**

Lamoni had become fearful because of the murders he had committed and that he was worried that Ammon was the Great Spirit and had come to punish him

**What ideas did the king and his servants have about Ammon's identity?**

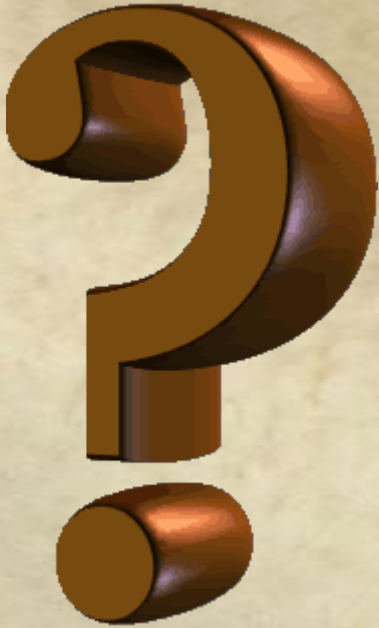
That he was a great man with strength, or a Great Spirit that was taught to them by their fathers

**What did Lamoni think Ammon's purpose was in coming?**

To punish the people because of their murders and to prevent Lamoni from slaying more of his servants

**What impressed Lamoni besides the power Ammon demonstrated in defending the flocks?**

His faithfulness



*As we serve others faithfully, we can help them prepare to receive the truths of the gospel*



**As we serve Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ faithfully, our ability to do Their work increases**

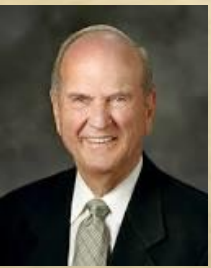


# STARTING AT THE BEGINNING

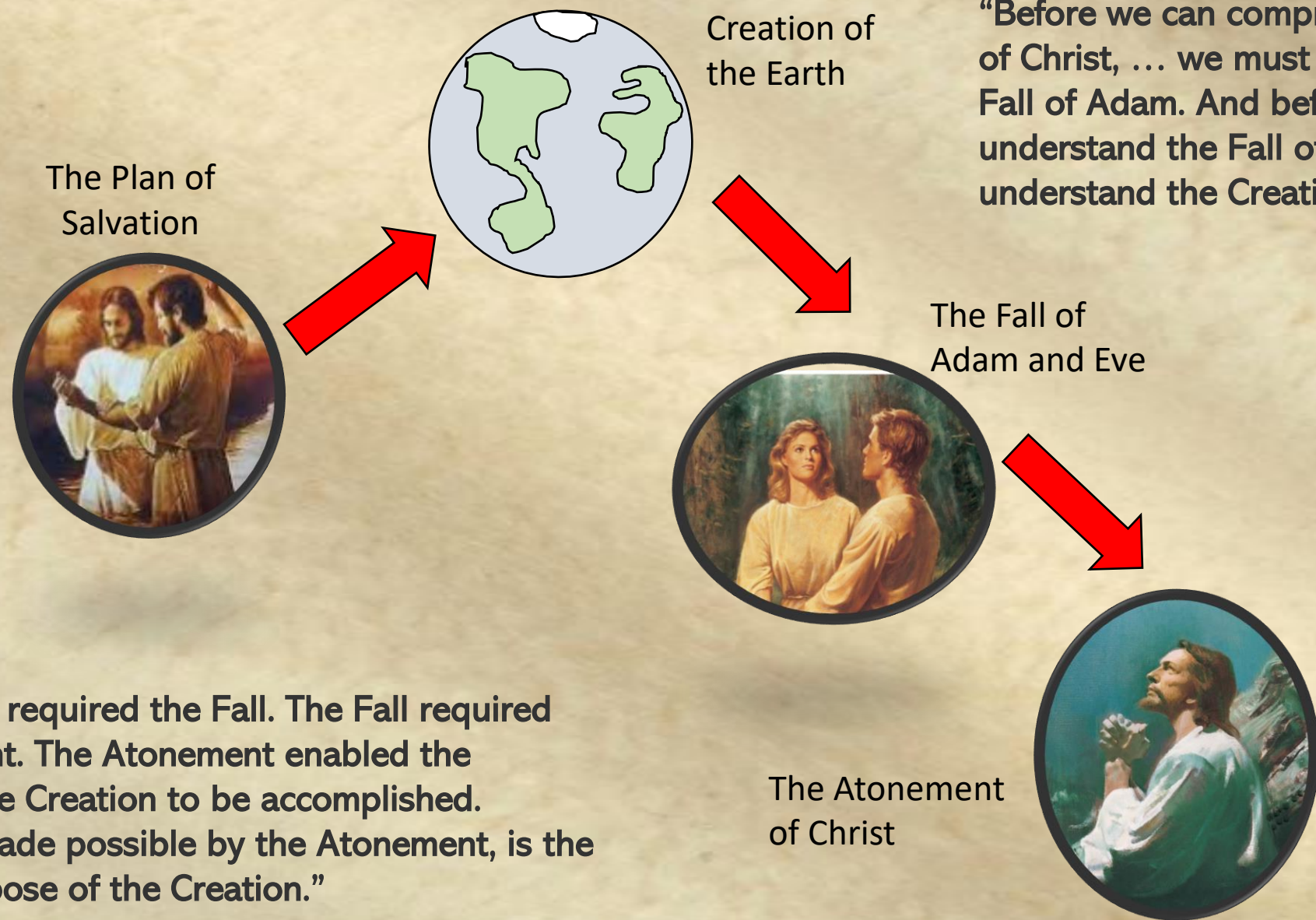


Alma begins by teaching Lamoni from the very beginning usually as all missionaries do when teaching a new investigator





# AMMON TEACHES LAMONI



“Before we can comprehend the Atonement of Christ, ... we must first understand the Fall of Adam. And before we can understand the Fall of Adam, we must first understand the Creation.”

“The Creation required the Fall. The Fall required the Atonement. The Atonement enabled the purpose of the Creation to be accomplished. Eternal life, made possible by the Atonement, is the supreme purpose of the Creation.”



**“...Foundational doctrines—the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement—the “three pillars of eternity” and the “greatest events that have ever occurred in all eternity.”**

**“If we can gain an understanding of them, then the whole eternal scheme of things will fall into place, and we will be in a position to work out our salvation. ...**

**“... These three are the foundations upon which all things rest. Without any one of them all things would lose their purpose and meaning, and the plans and designs of Deity would come to naught”**

**Elder Bruce R. McConkie**



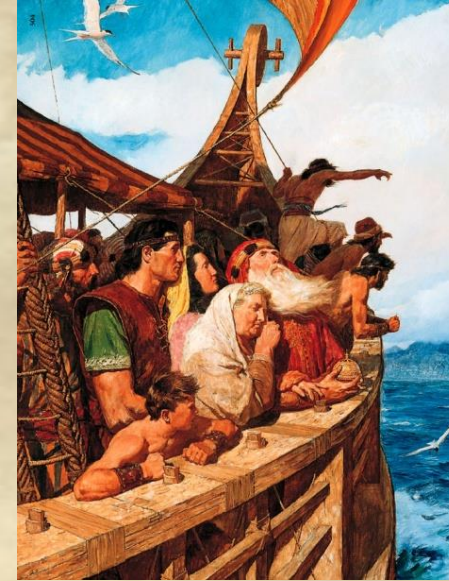


# AMMON TEACHES THE PAST



With records of:  
Lehi leaving Jerusalem  
and journeying in the  
wilderness

The rebellion of Laman  
and Lemuel and the sons  
of Ishmael

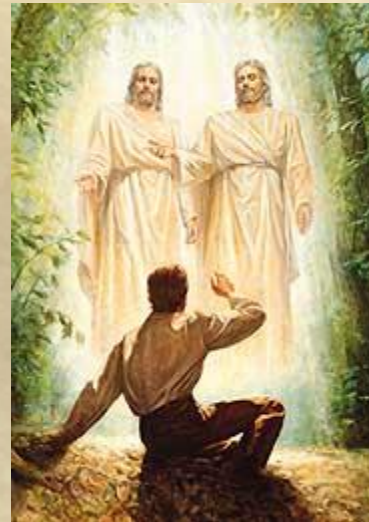
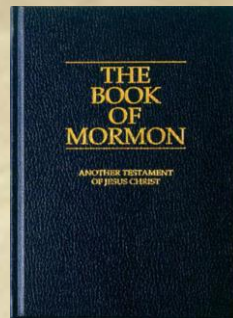


Where do we start to teach about the  
gospel?

From our records:

Witness of Joseph Smith

The restoration of the Church



# LAMONI'S CRY

O Lord, have mercy; according to thy abundant mercy which thou hast had upon the people of Nephi, have upon me, and my people.

**As we understand our need for the Savior, we  
will desire to repent**

Lamoni fell to the earth, as if dead

His servants carried him in unto his wife and he lay as if dead for 2 days  
and 2 nights—great mourning





## Sources:

Elder Russell M. Nelson (“The Atonement,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1996, 33, 35). (“The Creation,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 84).

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (“The Three Pillars of Eternity” [Brigham Young University devotional address, Feb. 17, 1981], 1, [speeches.byu.edu](http://speeches.byu.edu)).

Horses: BYU Education

<https://byustudies.byu.edu/content/hard-evidence-ancient-american-horses>

**Alma 18:36-39:**

“**The plan** required the Creation, and that in turn required both the Fall and the Atonement. These are the three fundamental components of the plan. The creation of a paradisiacal planet came from God. Mortality and death came into the world through the Fall of Adam [see 2 Nephi 2:25; Moses 6:48; Joseph Smith Translation, Genesis 6:49]. Immortality and the possibility of eternal life were provided by the Atonement of Jesus Christ [see 2 Nephi 2:21–28]. The Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement were planned long before the actual work of the Creation began” (Russell M. Nelson, “The Creation,” *Ensign*, May 2000, 84). Russell M. Nelson

**Alma 18:40-42:**

**Repentance** exists as an option only because of the Atonement of Jesus Christ. It is His infinite sacrifice that “bringeth about means unto men that they may have faith unto repentance” (Alma 34:15). Repentance is the necessary condition, and the grace of Christ is the power by which “mercy can satisfy the demands of justice” (Alma 34:16). Our witness is this:

“We know that justification [or forgiveness of sins] through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is just and true;

“And we know also, that sanctification [or purification from the effects of sin] through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is just and true, to all those who love and serve God with all their mights, minds, and strength” (D&C 20:30–31).

...the invitation to repent is an expression of love. When the Savior “began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17), it was a message of love, inviting all who would to qualify to join Him “and enjoy the words of eternal life in this world, and eternal life [itself] in the world to come” (Moses 6:59). If we do not invite others to change or if we do not demand repentance of ourselves, we fail in a fundamental duty we owe to one another and to ourselves...

...repentance means striving to change. It would mock the Savior’s suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the cross for us to expect that He should transform us into angelic beings with no real effort on our part..

Real repentance, real change may require repeated attempts, but there is something refining and holy in such striving...

Repentance means not only abandoning sin but also committing to obedience...

Repentance requires a seriousness of purpose and a willingness to persevere, even through pain...

...resolve to abandon and forsake the sin and to repair, as fully as one possibly can, the damage he or she has caused now forms in that new heart. This resolve soon matures into a covenant of obedience to God. With that covenant in place, the Holy Ghost, the messenger of divine grace, will bring relief and forgiveness...

Whatever the cost of repentance, it is swallowed up in the joy of forgiveness.

October 2011 Gen. Conf. The Divine Gift of Repentance

D. Todd Christofferson

# Something of Interest in the next 6 slides

## Alma 18:9 Horses and Chariots:

Alma 18:9 states that "the king had commanded his servants . . . that they should prepare his *horses and chariots*, and conduct him forth to the land of Nephi." Two major questions have been raised by anti-LDS critics of the Book of Mormon concerning the statement that there were "horses and chariots" on the American continents before the time of Christ (see Alma 18:9). These critics have maintained that:

(1) no horses existed on the American continents before the time of Columbus; and

(2) the people who lived on the American continents did not know the principle of the wheel before the coming of Columbus.

However, since the publication of the Book of Mormon, considerable archaeological evidence has come forth to reinforce its claims that there were horses on the American continents before the time of Columbus and that these early peoples did know the principles of the wheel. [Daniel H. Ludlow, *A Companion to Your Study of the Book of Mormon*, p. 206] [See the commentary on Enos 1:21; 3 Nephi 3:22; Ether 9:19]



## Alma 18:9 Horses:

In Alma 18:9, mention is made of "horses." According to Diane Wirth, the extinction of the horse in Mesoamerica before the coming of the Spanish Conquistadors can be likened to the near-extinction of the bison in the early west. An additional example of extinction can be found in the Bible. There are many references to lions in the Bible, yet the last Palestinian lion of record was killed in a hunt around A.D. 1100. Today there are no so-called archaeological remains of lions in the land of Israel. Apparently not a bone has been left. Therefore, a lack of skeletal remains of an animal in a particular area does not necessarily mean that the animal was never there.

Several curious artifacts and bas-reliefs in Mesoamerican art portray four-legged animals. At Chichen Itza, on the Yucatan Peninsula, for example, there is a bas-relief of a bearded man, who stands alongside what appears to be a horse. Although there are those who claim this is a dog, when has anyone seen a Mexican dog almost tall enough to reach a man's shoulder--even a short man? It appears more reasonable that this "dog" is a small breed of horse. Robert Marx claims to have found frescoes of horses at a site near Chichen Itza of "horses grazing, frolicking and running, some mounted with riders." [Diane E. Wirth, A Challenge to the Critics, pp. 53, 56] **See the commentary on Enos 1:21; 3 Nephi 3:22; Ether 9:19]**

According to Hunter and Ferguson, the claim made by the Book of Mormon that horses were on this continent and used in ancient America for purposes similar to the uses we make of them today finds strong support in the numerous fossil remains of horses that have been obtained from the asphalt deposits of Rancho La Brea in southern California. Of course, it is claimed that those fossil remains pre-date Book of Mormon times. However, there is no logical reason for believing, since horses were here prior to the arrival of the Jaredites and the Nephites, that horses could not have still been in America during the period in which those ancient civilizations flourished. . . . We could do no better at this point in dealing with this subject than to quote from an official publication of the Los Angeles County Museum on the subject of the existence of horses in early times in America:

The presence of herds of horses in the vicinity of the asphalt deposits during the period of accumulation is clearly testified to by the numerous remains of these mammals found at Rancho La Brea. While many individuals are recorded in the collections, all of them belong to a single species, the extinct western horse (*Equus occidentalis* Leidy). In stage of evolution and in general body structure this type resembles the modern horse, although differing from it in a number of specific details. Standing on the average about 14 1/2 hands (4 feet, 10 inches) at the withers, this animal was of the height of a modern Arab horse. It was, however, of considerably heavier build . . .

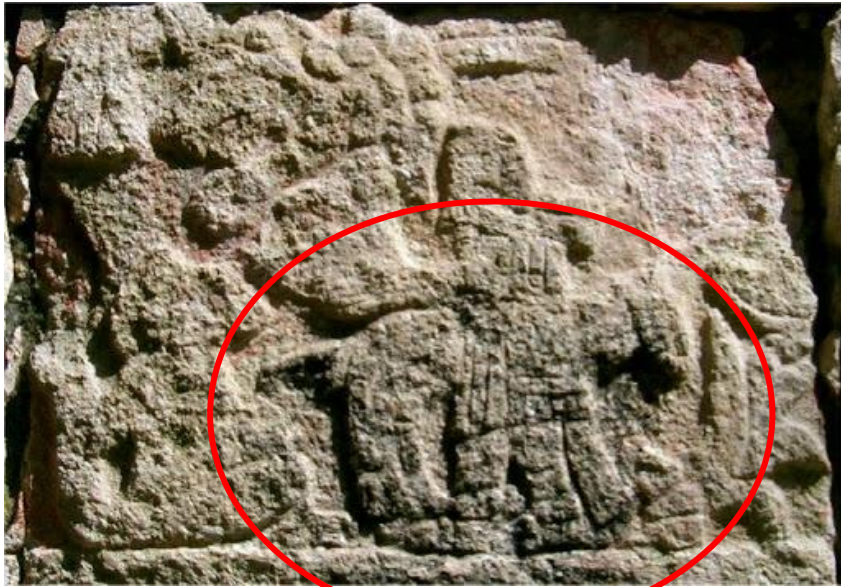
Horses were among the more common types of hoofed mammals on the North American continent during Pleistocene time and several distinct species have been described from fossil remains. The abundance and widespread distribution of horses in North America make the apparent disappearance of the group in this region prior to the advent of the white man an added and an unusual feature of their long and eventful career.

[Milton R. Hunter and Thomas Stuart Ferguson, Ancient America and The Book of Mormon, pp. 312-313] See the commentary on Enos 1:21; 3 Nephi 3:22; Ether 9:19]

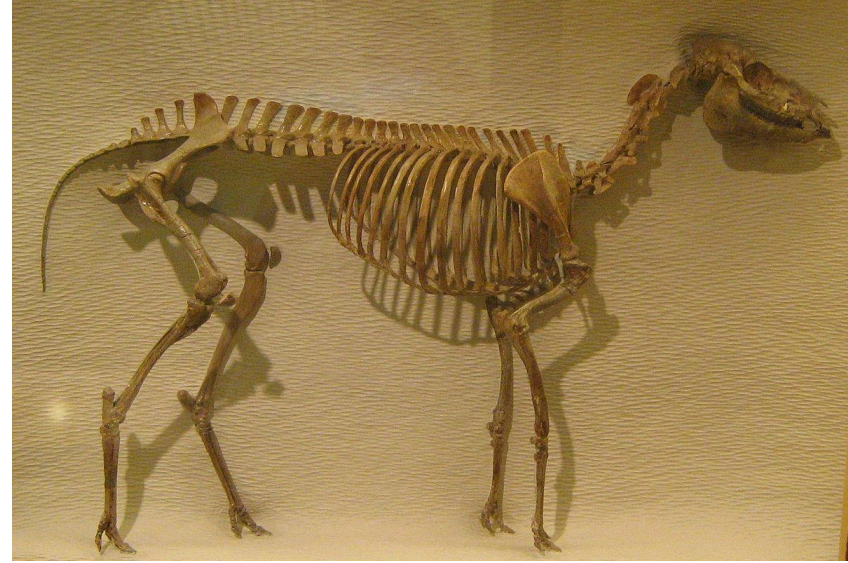
Eohippus: American 4-toed horse.



Carving of horse from the south wall of the Temple of the Tablets, Chichen Itza, Mexico.



Mesohippus: American 3-toed horse



American modern horse from La Brea tar pit



Most historians claim that all Indian ponies descended from European horses brought to America by the Spanish--but note the great difference in size as indicated by the level of the rider's feet. Not even evolutionists claim such a great change in a mere 350 years. [Glenn A. Scott, Voices from the Dust, p. 88]



According to Verneil Simmons, we have no idea what these "chariots" looked like. They could have been two-wheeled carts or even flatbed bodies on four wheels which would have been practical for moving their goods. The toys come in two-wheeled and four-wheeled models and indicate that both types were possible. Since we assume they would have been constructed of wood, it is unlikely that no evidence would survive until today. [Verneil W. Simmons, Peoples, Places And Prophecies, pp. 134-135]

Verneil Simmons also writes about an interesting phenomenon of archaeological "scholarship." He comments that until very recently, almost the first thing one read in a textbook or was told in the classroom was the supposed fact that the principle of the wheel was unknown to the ancient inhabitants of this continent. . . . However, as excavations increased more wheeled toys were found in the state of Veracruz and in other areas of Mexico. Eventually the cumulative evidence reached the point that the books had to be rewritten and public confession made that the wheeled toys had been hidden in museum storage rooms for decades (because it was a well known fact that the principle of the wheel was unknown in ancient America!). [Verneil W. Simmons, Peoples, Places and Prophecies, p. 134]

## Ancient Mesopotamia



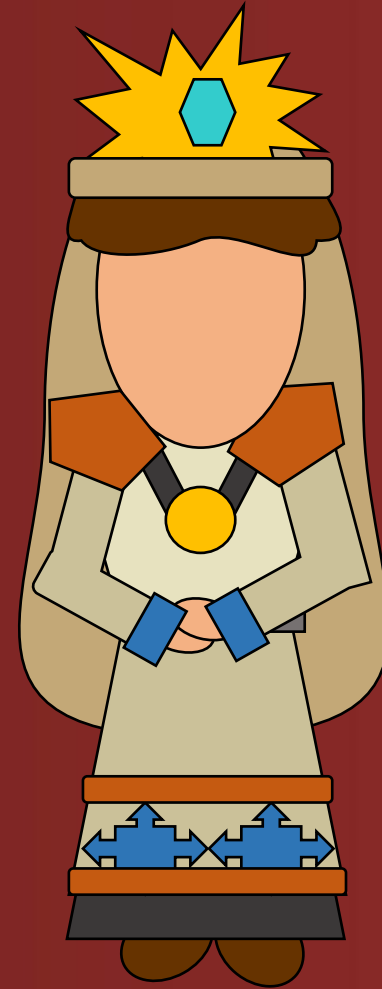
Not only did the wheel represent the sun, but the commonly portrayed dog, often carried on wheels, was also a symbol of the sun. With regard to this symbolism, the eminent archaeologist, J. Eric Thompson, stated: "Both the dog and the jaguar are intimately associated with the underworld, the former because he led the sun and the dead to the underworld." . . . It was believed by peoples in both Old and New Worlds that the sun made its transit at night through the underworld. Thus we have the Mesoamerican dog, like the Egyptian dog Anubis, taking a role as a guide for the dead--giving the deceased a means of transportation through the underworld to the dawn of resurrection when the sun once more rises to the heavens. Thus a complete sacred cycle of death (the underworld) and rebirth (the rising sun) is portrayed in the combined symbol of dog and wheel. This phenomenon alone would be reason enough to explain why the wheel was not used by the common people of Mesoamerica before the Conquest. [Diane E. Wirth, A Challenge to the Critics, pp. 62-63]



King Lamoni, Carried

Away in God

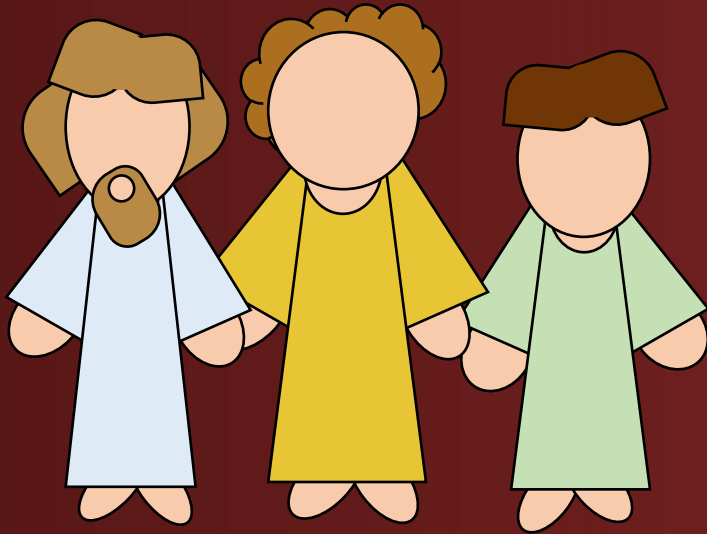
Alma 19-20





# Believe It Or Not

King Lamoni's  
servants believed  
the king to be  
dead and his body  
was decaying



The Queen  
believed the king  
to be alive and  
sent for Ammon  
believing him to  
be a prophet



Ammon reassured  
her that the king  
'sleepeth in God'  
He knew King Lamoni  
was overpowered by  
the Spirit of God



# The Queen

She was a Lamanite and wife of King Lamoni

She was an exemplary woman depicted in the Book of Mormon

She remains unnamed

She had sons and daughters

She exhibited her faith in Christ and all that Ammon had blessed her with

She was a devoted wife

She was overcome by the Spirit of the Lord—also fell to the ground and awakened by servant Abish

She followed in her husband's footsteps

She was instrumental in bringing many of the Lamanite people into the fold



# Abish

She was a Lamanite servant

She was a servant to the Queen

She had been converted unto the Lord for many years by her father's vision (Alma 19:16)

She kept her conversion a secret until she observed the Spirit of the queen, the king, and Ammon and the servants

She informed the people of her conversion and what miracle was taking place with her queen and the king. She knew it was the power of God

Some did not believe Abish and were angry with Ammon

When she touched the queen's hand while the queen was overpowered by the Spirit...the queen came to





# Carried Away in God

Overcome by the Spirit

“It appears that a trance is a state in which the body and its functions become quiescent in order that the full powers of the Spirit may be centered on the revelations of heaven.”



“The trance might be likened to another medium of revelation...”



“...it can hear what otherwise could not be heard and see what otherwise could not be seen—”

**However:**

Does it teach faith in Christ, repentance, sacrifice, and obedience?

# Servants Converted

*“Now, when the servants of the king had seen that they had fallen, they also began to cry unto God, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them also, for it was they who had stood before the king and testified unto him concerning the great power of Ammon.*

*And it came to pass that they did call on the name of the Lord, in their might, even until they had all fallen to the earth, save it were one of the Lamanitish women, whose name was Abish, she having been converted unto the Lord for many years, on account of a remarkable vision of her father—”*



# Abish Testifies

“Thus, having been converted to the Lord, and never having made it known, therefore, when **she saw** that all the servants of Lamoni had fallen to the earth, and also her mistress, the queen, and the king, and Ammon lay prostrate upon the earth, **she knew** that it was the power of God; and supposing that this opportunity, by making known unto the people what had happened among them, that by beholding this scene it would cause them to believe in the power of God, therefore she ran forth from house to house, **making it known** unto the people.”





# The Gathering

After Abish testifies of God and the people gather and saw Ammon, the king, the queen, and the servant's unconscious, a great contention arose among them.



One man tried to kill Ammon but fell dead in the attempt.

Some claimed that Ammon was the Great Spirit, and others said he was a monster.

When Abish saw all the contention that had resulted from her bringing the people together, she was very sad.

# Awaken

King Lamoni awakes testifying he has seen the Redeemer and announces His birth and mortal mother

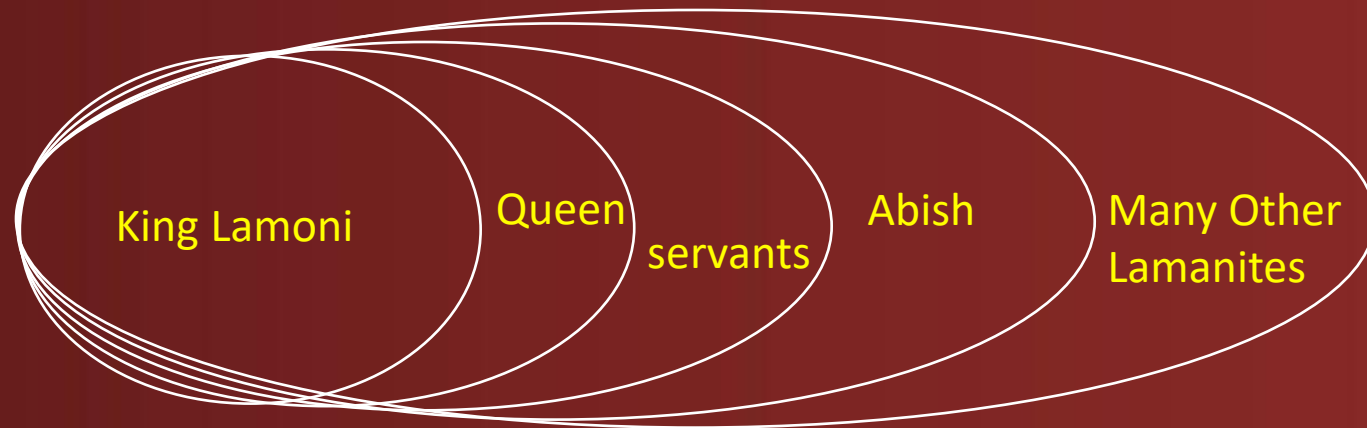


Jordan Weistling

The Power of King Lamoni's testimony has an effect on his wife, the Queen

Together they had fallen into the revelations of heaven

# By Sharing Our Testimony:



Like ripples that expand from the splash of a rock, other people can be influenced by our actions.



**By sharing our testimonies and setting righteous examples, we can help others turn to the Lord.**

Ask yourself:

When has someone's example or testimony influenced me for good?

What can I do today that might have a good influence on people around me?

# Miracles...Like Seeing Angels



Those born of God do not require miracles for conversion but respond to teachings of the Spirit.

Camille Fronk





**The Lord's arm  
is extended to  
all people  
who will  
repent and  
believe on his  
name**



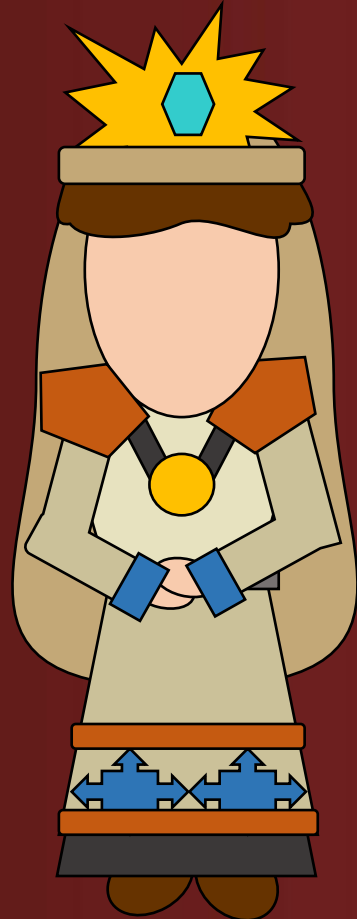
Jared Barnes





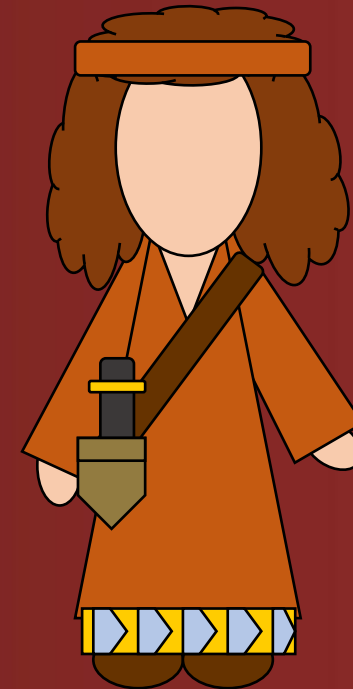
# The Voice of the Lord

King Lamoni wanted to take Ammon to the festival in the Land of Nephi and introduce him to his father



The Lord warned Ammon of not going to the Land of Nephi because the King would slay him

The Lord also wanted Ammon to go rescue his brethren, Aaron, Muloki, and Ammah in the land of Middoni where they were imprisoned



# By Revelation

Sometimes the Lord reveals things which will impact our lives

Sometimes He does not give instructions on how to accomplish what He sends us to do

Sometimes we need to rely on the Spirit to get us from “A to B”

B

“I was led by the spirit, not knowing beforehand the things which I should do.”

1 Nephi 4:6



# Father of King Lamoni

He was the king over all the land

He tried to have his son kill Ammon

He tried to take the life of his son

He was touched by Ammon's great love for his son

He was later converted by the teachings of Aaron



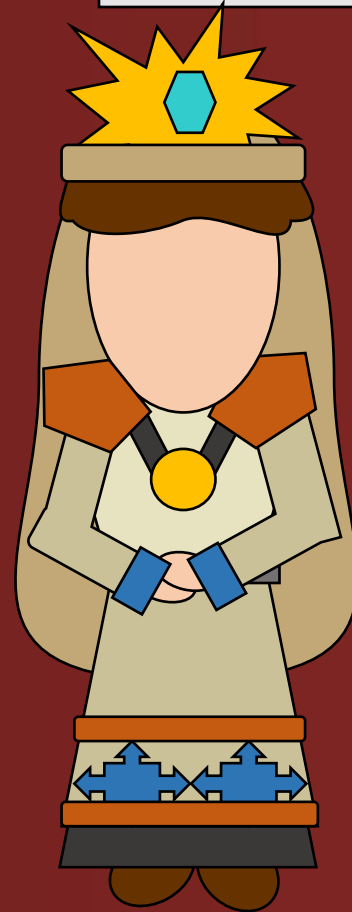


# The Meeting

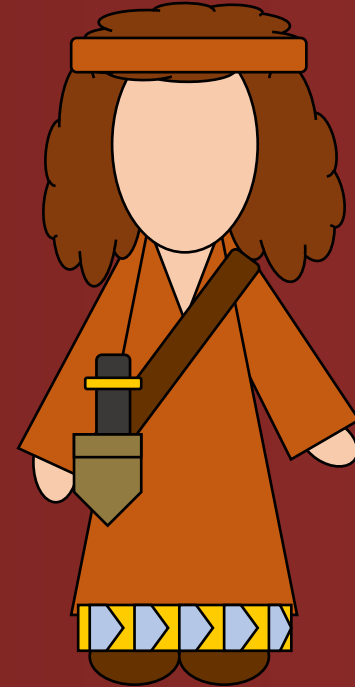
Why did you not come to the feast?



Why are you with this Nephite who is a liar?



King Lamoni rehearses his conversion story and where they were going



# The Anger—The Steadfast

The Nephites are sons of liars

They have robbed our fathers out of our lands

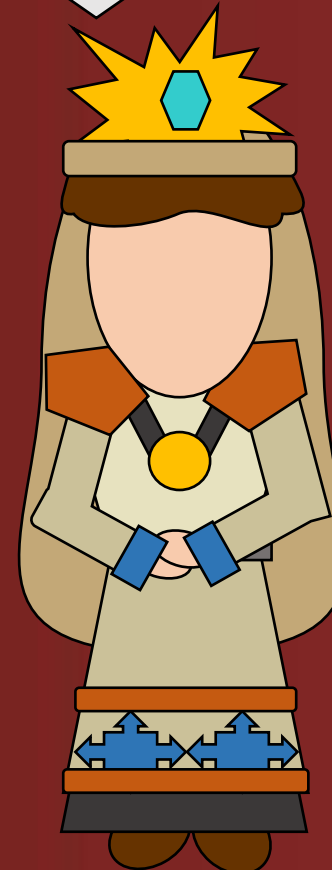
I will not kill Ammon or return home

I will go with Ammon to Middoni and help release his brethren

I want you to kill this Nephite

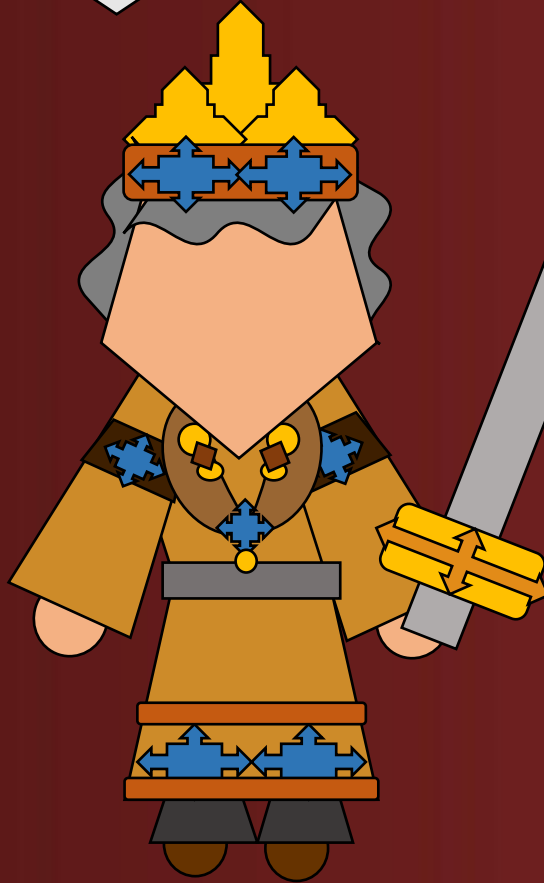
And go back to the land of Ishmael

For they are just men and holy prophets of the true God



# The Assault

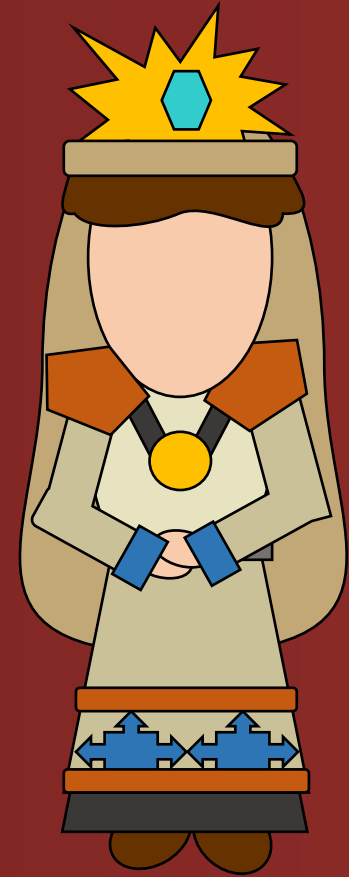
Then I will  
kill you



You will not kill  
your son. He  
has repented of  
his sins



You will  
become a  
murderer



The king went to kill Ammon  
but could not.

Ammon smote his arm that he  
could not use it



# The Bargain

Please spare my life!



You may have whatever you want, even half my kingdom

I will spare your life if you release my brethren out of prison



And let your son return home to his kingdom and let him live the way he desires



# The Influence

I see you have  
a great love  
for my son

Your brethren  
will be released,  
and my son will  
retain his  
kingdom

I will not govern  
his life anymore

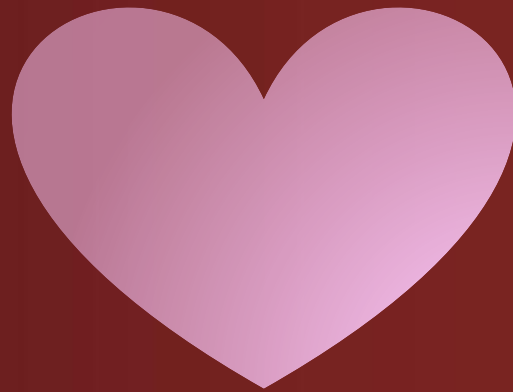
I desire to meet  
your brethren  
and I desire to  
learn more  
from them



We can stand up for what we know is right, even when others try to persuade us to do what is wrong



As we show love and teach truth,  
we can help others soften their  
hearts and become receptive to the  
gospel



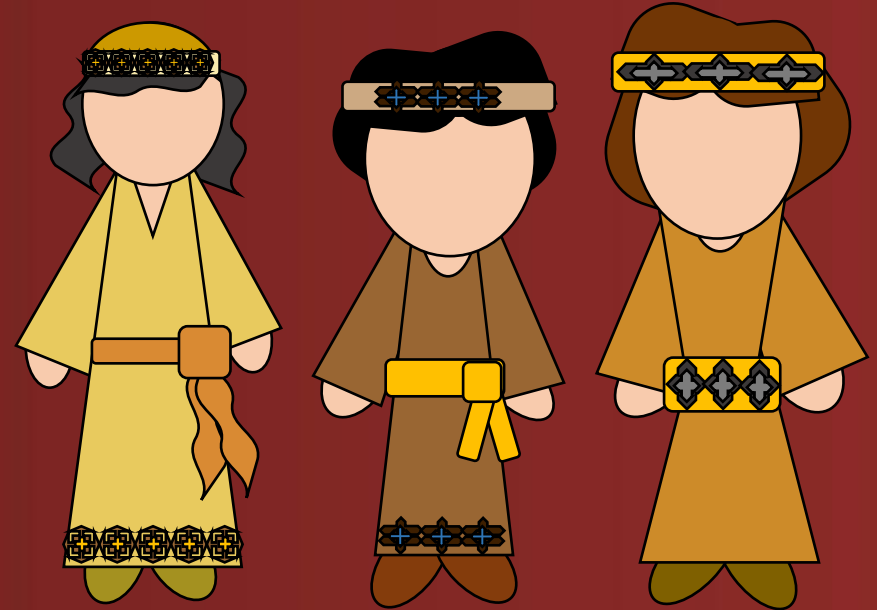


# Ammon Finds His Brethren

King Lamoni journey to the land of Middoni and found favor in the eyes of the king.

Aaron, Muloki, and Ammah were released from prison

Ammon was sorrowful because of the prison conditions in which they were in and that they suffered many afflictions



And the rest of the story  
continues...

## Sources:

Who's Who of the Book of Mormon Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 5-6, 105, 157-158

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon Vol. 3 pg. 141-142

Camille Fronk, "Show Forth Good Examples in Me," in Studies in Scripture: Book of Mormon, Part 1, pp. 321-332

1. Alma 20:8–14	How did Lamoni’s father react to seeing Lamoni with Ammon?	1. Alma 20:8–14	How did Lamoni’s father react to seeing Lamoni with Ammon?
2. Alma 20:15–16	How did Lamoni respond to his father?	2. Alma 20:15–16	How did Lamoni respond to his father?
3. Alma 20:17–25	When Lamoni’s father saw that Ammon could kill him, what did he offer Ammon? What did Ammon ask instead?	3. Alma 20:17–25	When Lamoni’s father saw that Ammon could kill him, what did he offer Ammon? What did Ammon ask instead?
4. Alma 20:26–27	How did Ammon’s love for Lamoni influence Lamoni’s father? In what ways did the words of Ammon and Lamoni influence Lamoni’s father?	4. Alma 20:26–27	How did Ammon’s love for Lamoni influence Lamoni’s father? In what ways did the words of Ammon and Lamoni influence Lamoni’s father?
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# Aaron Preaches of Sacrifice for Eternal Salvation Alma 21-22

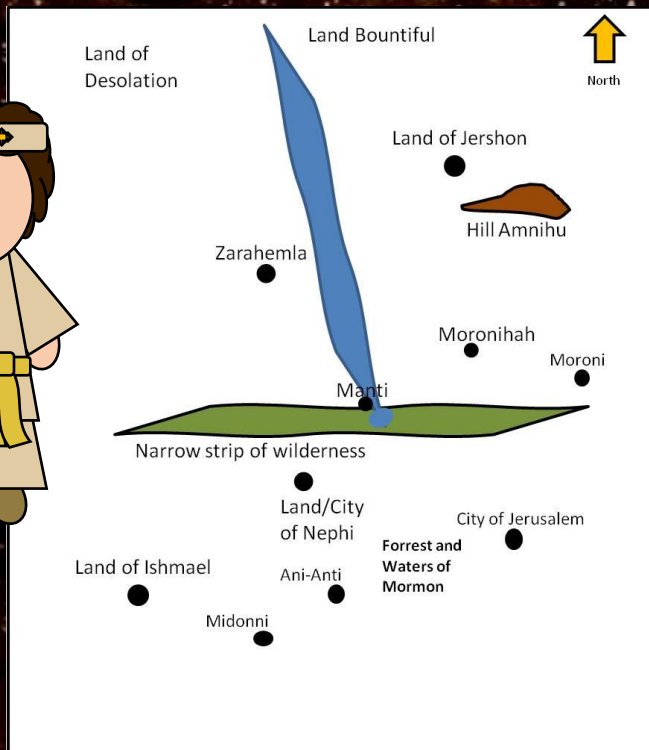
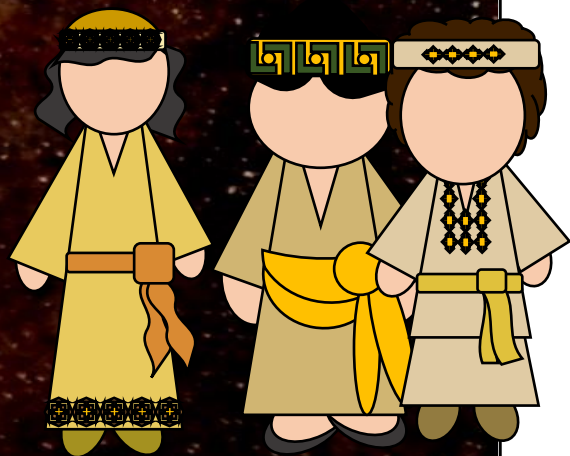




About 90 BC

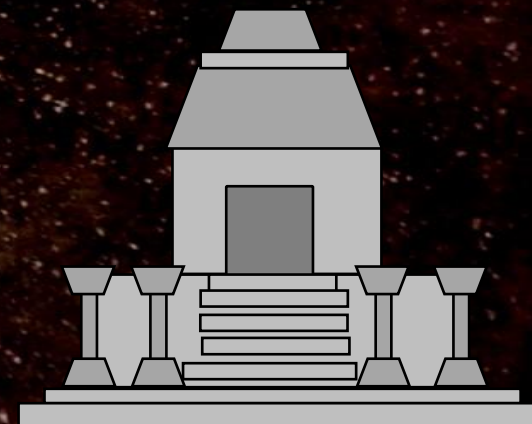
# The Mission of the Sons of Mosiah

After Ammon and the sons of Mosiah separated Aaron and his brothers, Omner and Himni go to preach in Jerusalem



The City of Jerusalem

A great city built by the Lamanites, the Amalekites, and the Amulonites





# Aaron

He was the son of Mosiah

He was 'numbered among the unbelievers' (Mosiah 27:8)

He was visited by a heavenly messenger which brought about a transformation

Rather than accept the voice of the people as first choice to succeed his father as king, he embarked on a missionary journey that lasted 14 years (Mosiah 29:2-3)

He and his other brothers went to the Lamanites to preach the gospel

After persecuted and imprisoned he eventually was led by the spirit to present the gospel plan to the great king over all the Lamanites

As a missionary, he and his brothers brought thousands of Lamanites into the gospel of Christ and they "became a righteous people"  
(Alma 23:7)

He served faithfully throughout his life





# Muloki and Ammah

They were companions with Aaron on his mission to the Lamanites in about 90 BC

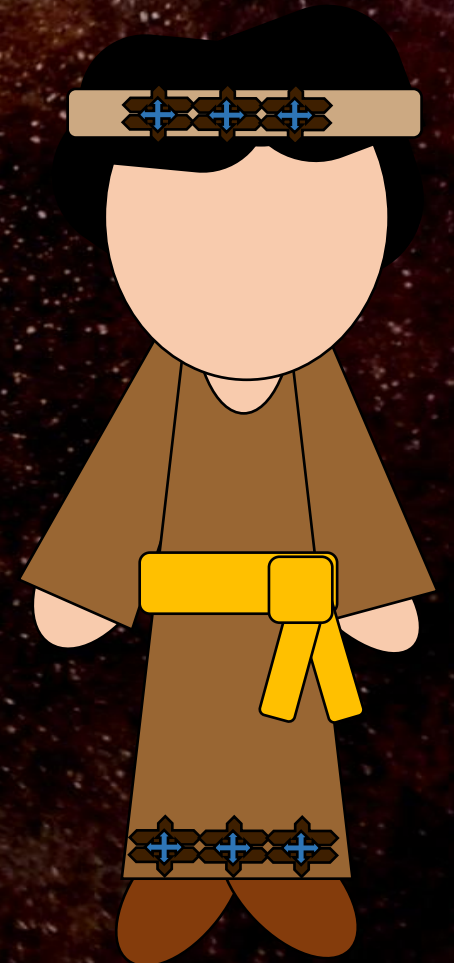
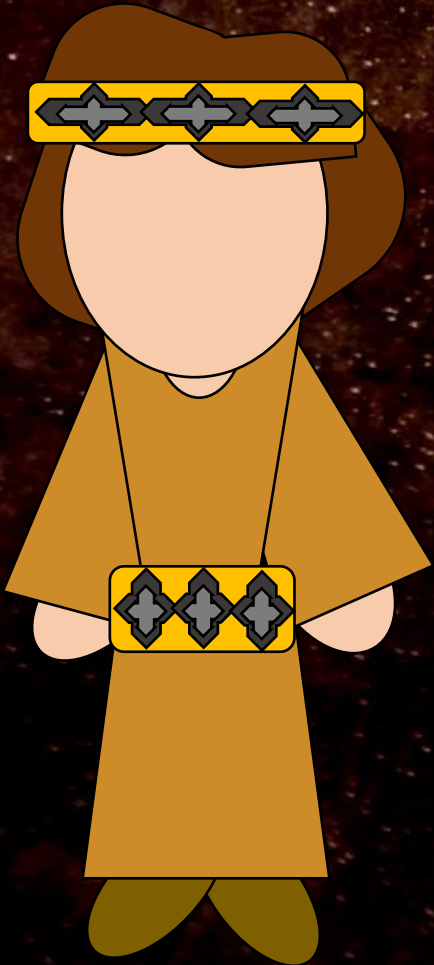
The first reference to them was spoken of by the Lord to Ammon that they and Aaron were in prison in the land of Middoni

When Aaron was rejected in the City of Jerusalem he went to the village of Ani-Anti where Aaron met Muloki and Ammah preaching repentance and redemption to the people

They joined with Aaron after the community of Ani-Anti rejected them to go to the land of Middoni

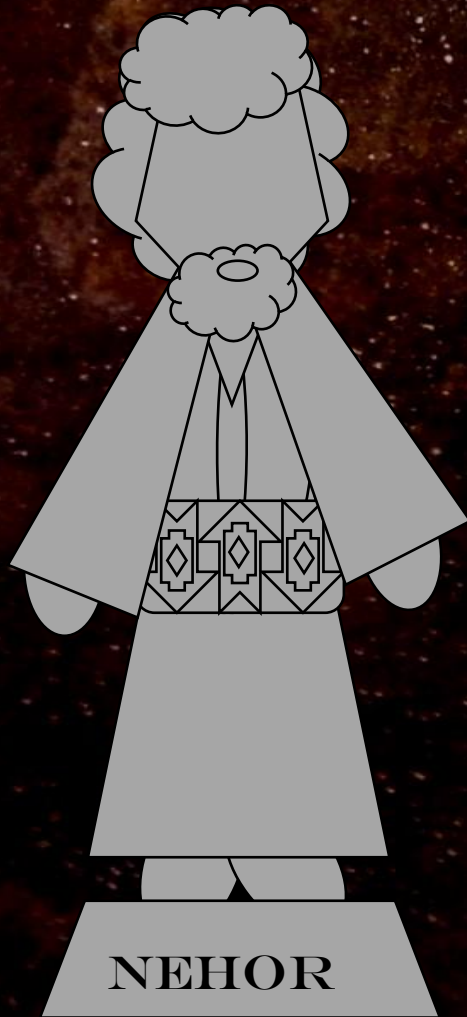
They , along with Aaron, were put in prison and suffered many afflictions

Alma and King Lamoni rescued them, and they continued to preach in every synagogue of the Amalekites or any where they were admitted.





# Amalekites and Amulonites



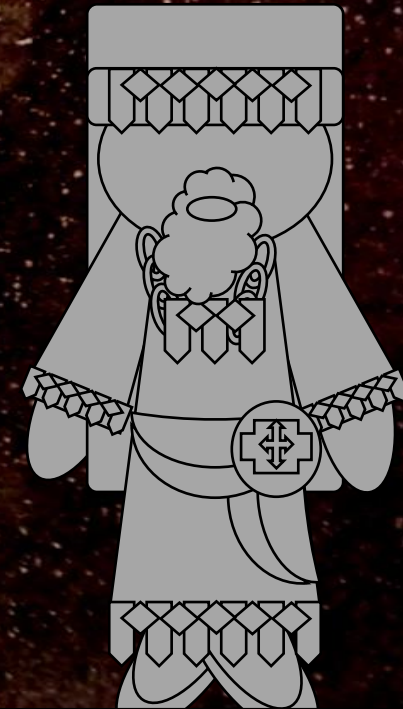
They were a group of apostates in the city of Jerusalem who practiced after the order of Nehor

The Amalekites were appointed captains of the Lamanite armies because of their murderous dispositions

Generally, they instigated the Lamanites to go to war against the Nephites

The Amulonites were descendants of the priests of King Noah

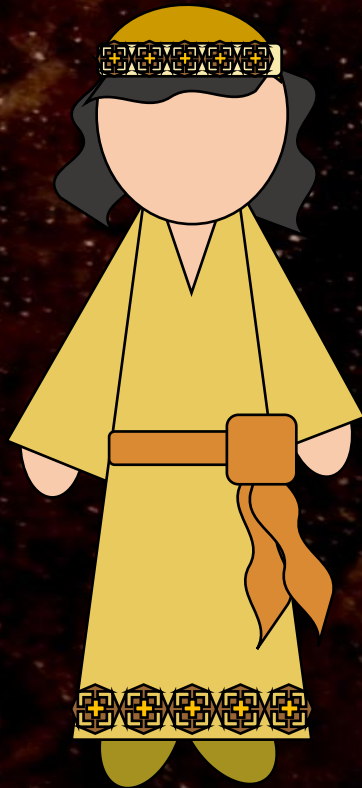
Eventually the Amulonites turned against their Lamanite allies and were hunted down and slain





# Preaching in the Synagogues

Aaron first preached to the Amalekites



The Amulonite and the Amalekites built their synagogues after the order of Nehor

The Amulonites and Amalekites hearts were more hardened than the Lamanites

The basis of the order of Nehor:  
One could do as he pleases and still be saved





# Theology of Satan

God will save all men...this is the doctrine of Lucifer in the Grand Council of Heaven and popularized by Nehor among the descendants of Lehi

Why did the Amulonites and Amalekites build a synagogue?

Why would they want to assemble together and worship when salvation (according to the order of Nehor) was already given to them?





# Angels Appear Not

“In harmony with the order of heaven, angels appear unto “just and holy men”.



Lovetta Reyes

*Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.  
And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.  
And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.  
Luke 16:29-31*

Clearly, those who will not hear the word of God as preached by one such as Aaron will not hear it if preached by one who has come back from the dead.

The issue is the message,  
not the messenger.



McConkie and Millet



# Ani-Anti

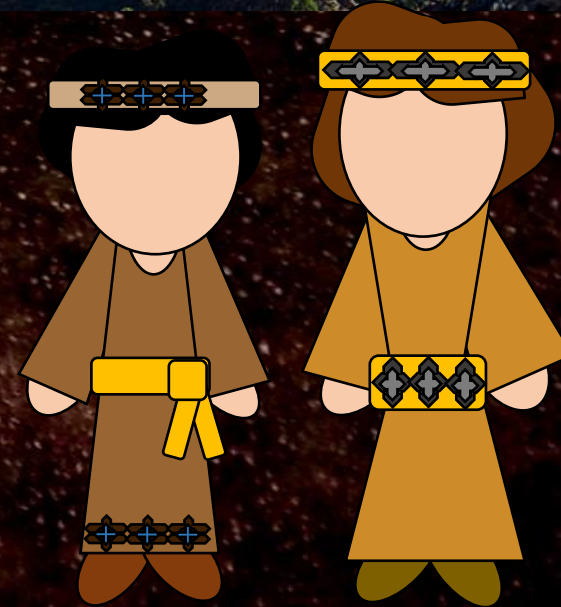
Aaron's words are rejected, and he leaves the synagogue and came to the village of Ani-Anti



He met Muloki and Ammah preaching repentance and redemption



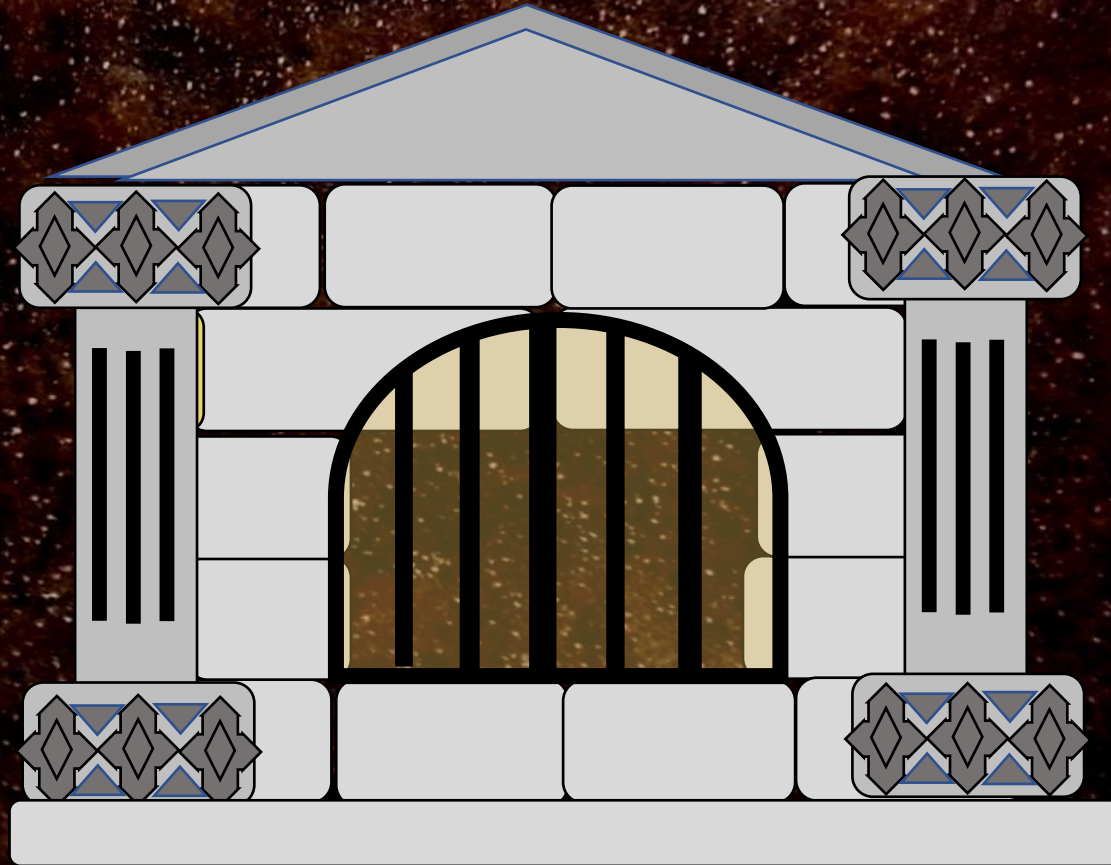
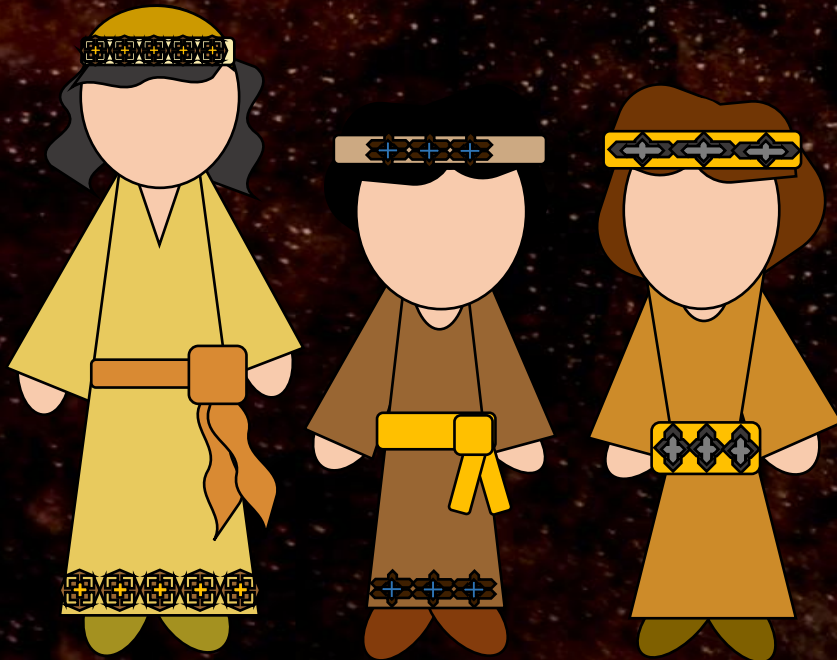
They were also rejected and went to the land of Middoni





# Thrown in Prison

In the land of Middoni, Aaron, Muloki, and Ammah were cast into prison while the other companions fled out of the regions round about.



There they suffered many things



# Hardships While Preaching

Alma 21:5–8



Contention  
among them...  
Aaron was  
preaching in vain

Alma 21:9–11



The Amalekites  
were mocking and  
angry



Alma 21:12–13



They were cast  
into prison



Alma 20:29–30



Cast out, bound  
with cords, and  
smitten

## However:

If we patiently  
persist through  
trials, the Lord  
will bless us  
with His Spirit  
and help us do  
His work



# Rescued by Ammon and Lamoni

Through the King of all the land Ammon and King Lamoni were able to rescue them and fed and clothed them.



They began to preach again where the Lord would take them...preaching the word of God in every Amalekite synagogue or wherever they could preach.



“To reach, to teach, to touch the precious souls whom our Father has prepared for His message is a monumental task.

Success is rarely simple.

Generally it is preceded by tears, trials, trust, and testimony”

President Thomas S. Monson



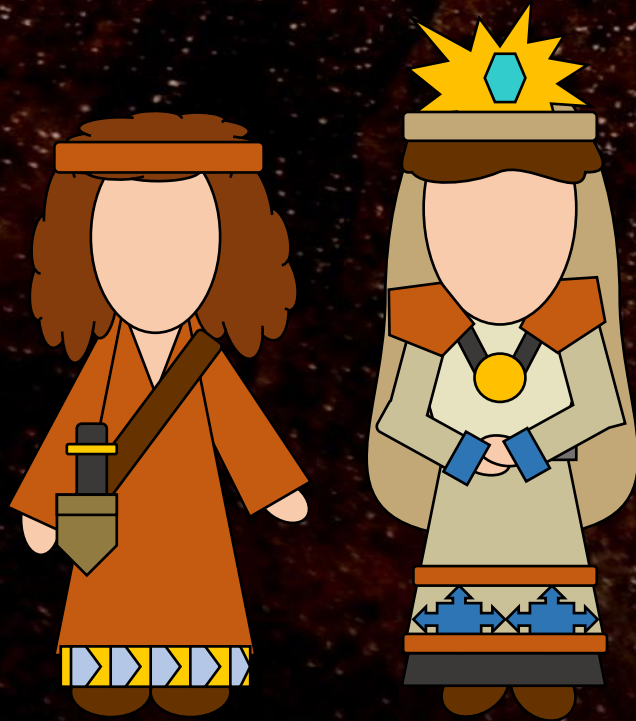


# Returning to the Land of Ishmael

Ammon and King Lamoni return to the land of Ishmael

King Lamoni released Ammon as his servant

King Lamoni had synagogues built and they did come together to hear the word of God and that they were a 'free people'



*“And he also declared unto them that they might have the liberty of worshiping the Lord their God according to their desires, in whatsoever place they were in, if it were in the land which was under the reign of King Lamoni.”*

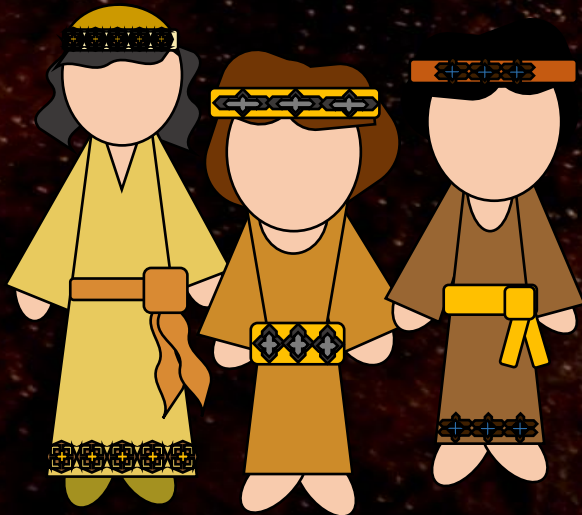


# Aaron Returns to the Land of Nephi

Aaron and his brethren are led by the spirit to return to the Land of Nephi

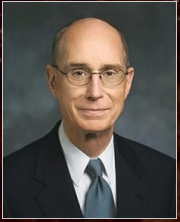
They went to the Father of Lamoni

Instead of being servants Lamoni wants them to administer (to teach or instruct) unto him—every missionary's dream—**the golden ones**





# King Lamoni's Father is Prepared



“God will put prepared people in the way of His prepared servants who want to share the gospel. ..

The Lord has said He will reveal truth to our mind and our heart by the Holy Ghost.”

President Henry B. Eyring

How can you prepare to instantly share the gospel of Christ?



## Using the Scriptures

Aaron rehearsed all that Ammon rehearsed to Lamoni's father.

Aaron was prepared to teach and Lamoni's father was prepared to listen.

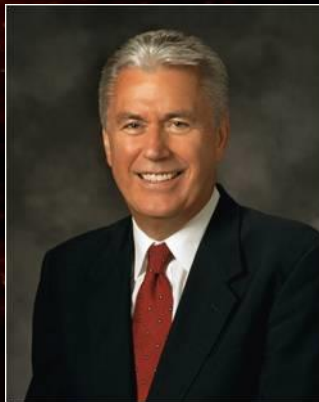




# Asking Questions

It's natural to have questions—the acorn of honest inquiry has often sprouted and matured into a great oak of understanding. . . . Please, first doubt your doubts before you doubt your faith. We must never allow doubt to hold us prisoner and keep us from the divine love, peace, and gifts that come through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

President Dieter F. Uchtdorf



Lamoni's father asked the same types of questions that his son asked of Ammon

“Eternal life, or exaltation, is to inherit a place in the highest degree of the celestial kingdom, where we will live in God's presence and continue as families...

... This gift is made possible through the Atonement of Jesus Christ”

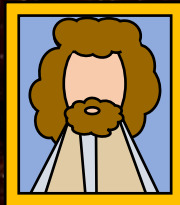
*(True to the Faith: A Gospel Reference [2004], 52).*



# Eternal Life Questions

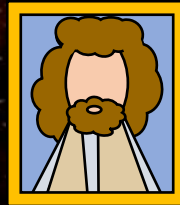
Why do you want to receive eternal life?


What would you be willing to give up in order to receive eternal life?

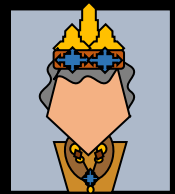


The Savior's answer:  
Keep the Commandments

What if you already keep the commandments?



The Savior's answer:   
Matthew 19:16-22



The King's response: "...I will give up all that I possess, yea, I will forsake my kingdom, that I may receive this great joy"



Aaron's answer: pray and repent. Have faith and hope



# A Sacrifice for Eternal Salvation

“Let us here observe, that a religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation; for, from the first existence of man, the faith necessary unto the enjoyment of life and salvation never could be obtained without the sacrifice of all earthly things.

It was through this sacrifice, and this only, that God has ordained that men should enjoy eternal life; and it is through the medium of the sacrifice of all earthly things that men do actually know that they are doing the things that are well pleasing in the sight of God.

When a man has offered in sacrifice all that he has for the truth's sake, not even withholding his life, and believing before God that he has been called to make this sacrifice because he seeks to do his will, he does know, most assuredly, that God does and will accept his sacrifice and offering, and that he has not, nor will not seek his face in vain.

Under these circumstances, then, he can obtain the faith necessary for him to lay hold on eternal life.”  
(*Lectures on Faith* [1985], 69).



# Carried Away In God

*“O God, Aaron hath told me that there is a God; and if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day.”*



When he received a manifestation of the Spirit that was so powerful that it caused him to lose physical strength.

“The light of the glory of God” = such a degree that it “had overcome his natural frame, and he was carried away in God.”

## A Manifestation

The King is struck as if he were dead

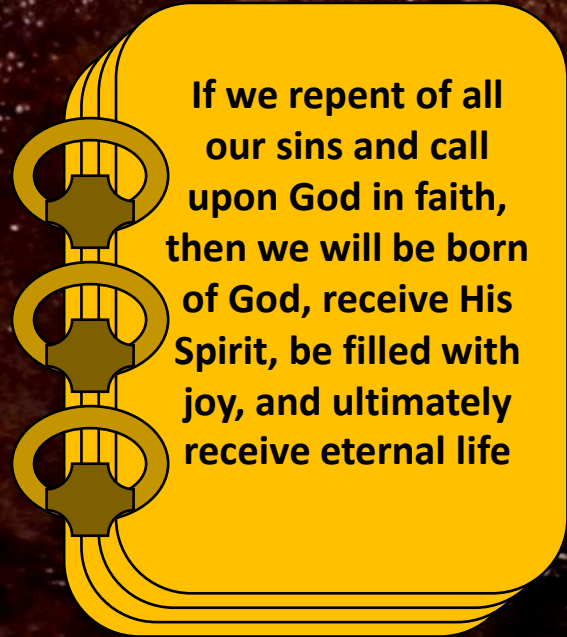
The servants tell the queen

The queen is angry with Aaron and his brethren and asked the servants to call the people

Aaron put forth his hand and raised the king from the earth...

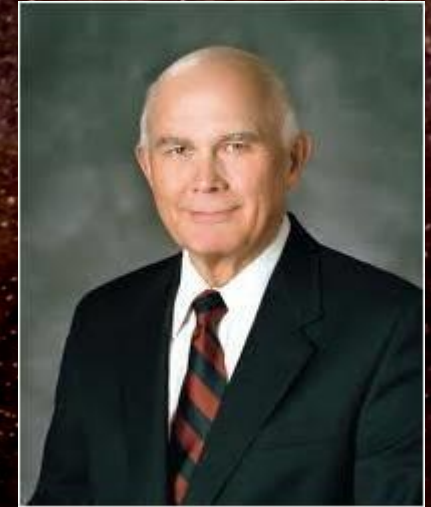
The people came and Aaron preaches to them





If we repent of all our sins and call upon God in faith, then we will be born of God, receive His Spirit, be filled with joy, and ultimately receive eternal life

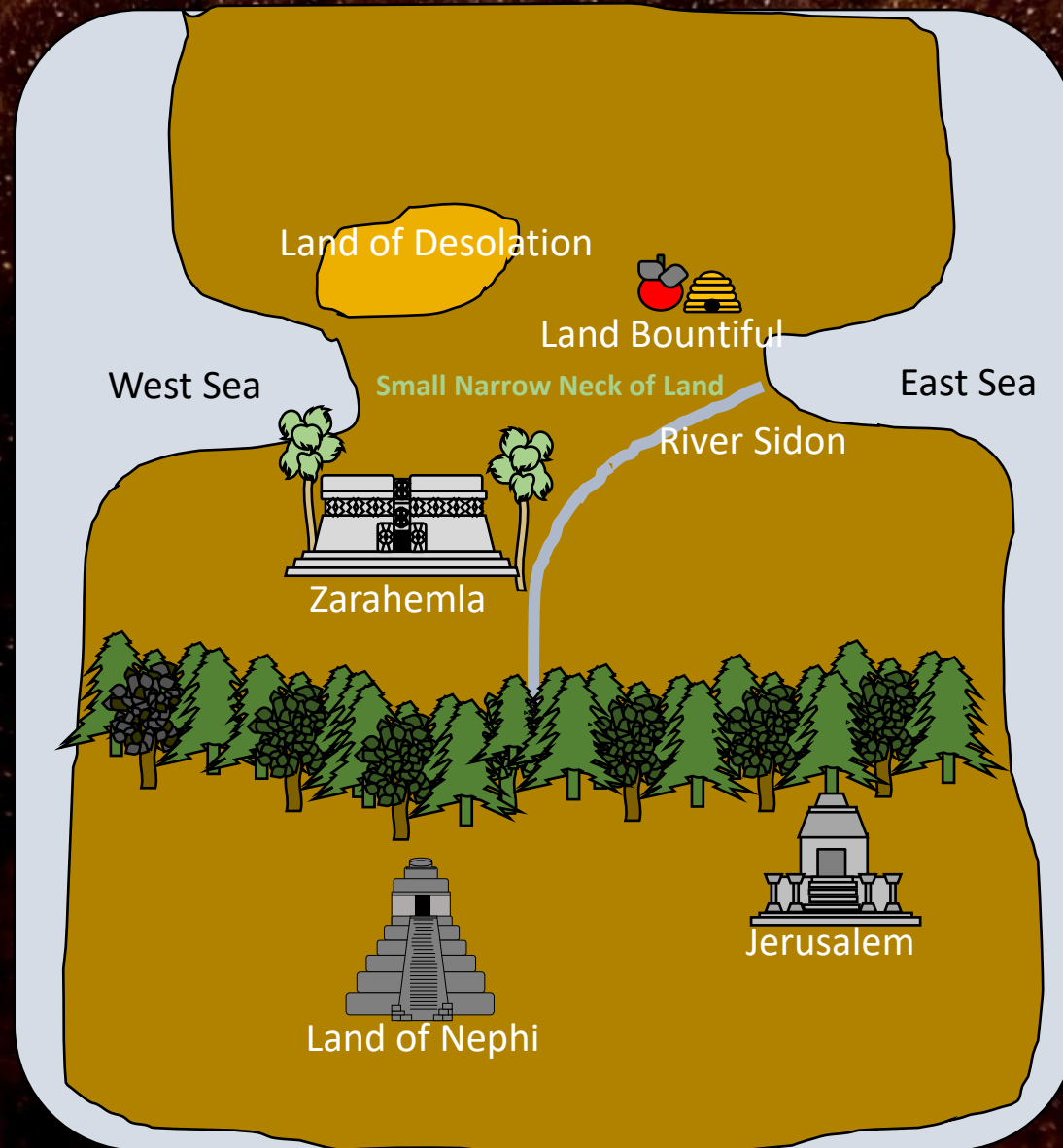
“The gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to change. ‘Repent’ is its most frequent message, and repenting means giving up all of our practices—personal, family, ethnic, and national—that are contrary to the commandments of God. The purpose of the gospel is to transform common creatures into celestial citizens, and that requires change”  
Elder Dallin H. Oaks



“Do you have something in your life that you need to change? You can do this. You can repent because of the Savior’s infinite atoning sacrifice. He made it possible for you and me to change, to become pure and clean again, and to become like Him. And He has promised that when we do, He will remember our sins and mistakes no more”  
Sister Elaine S. Dalton



# The Land





## Sources:

Who's Who In the Book of Mormon Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 2-3, 18, 15, 24-25, 134-135

Pictures are from the villages of the southern part of South America...not actual pictures from the Book of Mormon times

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Elder Dallin H. Oaks ("Repentance and Change," *Ensign or Liahona*, Nov. 2003, 37).

Sister Elaine S. Dalton ("Now Is the Time to Arise and Shine!" *Ensign or Liahona*, May 2012, 124).

Robert L. Millet, Joseph Fielding McConkie *Doctrinal Commentary* 3:151



**Land of Desolation**  
Land far northward that had been peopled and destroyed, Alma 22:30–31.  
Place of first landing of people of Zarahemla, Alma 22:30.  
A day and a half journey from east to west sea, Alma 22:32.  
Moroni names land south of Desolation land of liberty, Alma 46:17.

**Land Bountiful**  
People of Lehi come to land they called Bountiful because of fruit and honey, 1 Ne. 17:5.  
voice of the Lord comes to Nephi<sup>1</sup> in Bountiful, 1 Ne. 17:7.  
Nephites take possession of Bountiful, Alma 22:29.  
Bountiful lies south of land of Desolation, Alma 22:31.  
Bountiful runs from east to west sea, Alma 22:33.

**Land of Zarahemla**  
Mosiah made king over land of Zarahemla, Omni 1:12–13.  
Benjamin drives Lamanites from Zarahemla, Omni 1:24.  
Expedition seeking the land of Nephi returns to Zarahemla, Omni 1:28 (Mosiah 9:2).  
No more contention in Zarahemla, Mosiah 1:1 (2:4).  
People are gathered in land of Zarahemla to hear Benjamin, Mosiah 1:18.  
Zeniff came out of land of Zarahemla, Mosiah 7:9.  
Ammon<sup>1</sup> comes from Zarahemla to inquire after people of Zeniff, Mosiah 7:13–14.  
Limhi's expedition failed to find Zarahemla, Mosiah 21:24–26.  
Limhi's people arrive in Zarahemla, Mosiah 22:11–13.  
Alma and his people arrive in Zarahemla, Mosiah 24:25.  
Alma is permitted to establish churches throughout Zarahemla, Mosiah 25:19–23.  
Sons of Mosiah<sup>2</sup> preach throughout Zarahemla to repair injuries, Mosiah 27:34–35.  
Reign of judges commences in Zarahemla, Mosiah 29:44.  
Lamanites and Nephites battle near land of Zarahemla, Alma 2:15–25.  
No contentions in Zarahemla, Alma 4:1.  
Alma begins his mission in Zarahemla, Alma 5:1.  
Alma returns to Zarahemla with Amulek, Alma 15:18.  
Peace continues in Zarahemla, Alma 16:1.  
Lands of Nephi and Zarahemla nearly surrounded by water, Alma 22:32.

**Places thus far in the Book of Mormon**

**Land of Nephi**  
Named after Nephi, 2 Ne. 5:8.  
Mosiah flees from Nephi as directed, Omni 1:12.  
Large number of Nephites return to Nephi, Omni 1:27–30.  
Ammon and brethren go to Nephi, Mosiah 7:6.  
Ammon and brethren imprisoned in Nephi, Mosiah 7:7–8.  
Limhi, king of Nephi, Mosiah 7:9 (19:26).  
Record of Zeniff's people in land of Nephi, Mosiah 9–22.  
Zeniff has knowledge of land of Nephi, Mosiah 9:1.  
Zeniff obtains possession of land of Nephi, Mosiah 9:6.  
Lamanites invade, steal flocks, Mosiah 9:14.  
Peace established in Nephi, Mosiah 10:1.  
Noah succeeds father as king in Nephi, Mosiah 11:1.  
Abinadi preaches in Nephi, Mosiah 11:20.  
Alma teaches in Mormon, in borders of land of Nephi, Mosiah 18:4–5.  
Lamanites carry away Nephites' wives and children in Nephi, Mosiah 19:15.  
husbands return to Nephi, Mosiah 19:24.  
Lamanites go to destroy Nephites in Nephi, Mosiah 20:7.  
Lamanites repulsed, Mosiah 20:11.  
Limhi's people in bondage in Nephi, Mosiah 21:1–4.  
Wicked priests come into land of Nephi to steal, Mosiah 21:21.  
Limhi's people escape from Nephi, Mosiah 22:11.  
Sons of Mosiah are permitted to go on mission to Nephi, Mosiah 28:1–9 (Alma 17:6–8).  
Aaron goes to Nephi, Mosiah 29:3 (Alma 22:1).  
Account of mission of sons of Mosiah to Lamanites in Nephi, Alma 17–26.  
Lamoni's father is king over land of Nephi, Alma 18:9.  
Lamoni desires Ammon to accompany him to Nephi, Alma 20:1.  
The Lord tells Ammon not to go to Nephi, Alma 20:2.  
Idle Lamanites inhabit borders of Nephi, Alma 22:28.  
Land of Nephi nearly surrounded by water, Alma 22:32.  
Nephites kept Lamanites to south in Nephi, Alma 22:34.  
Land of Nephi runs in straight course from east sea to west, Alma 50:8.