Alma 43-52













Your Own Future

Write a list of goals and
desires for your future

In what ways could Satan interfere with these goals?

Background

The Zoramites dissented from the Nephites

Alma feared the dissenters would join with the Lamanites, so he endeavored to preach the word of God to them

Those who believed in Alma's preaching were cast out by the unbelieving Zoramites, who feared the loss of their wealth and power if conversion were widespread

These castaways were given asylum by the "People of Ammon" and lived in the land of Jershon

The wicked Zoramites protested this action and threatened the people of Ammon

The dissenting Zoramites mixed with the Lamanites in an attempt to stir them up to war against the people of Ammon

The Ammonites and the converted Zoramites were evacuated to the land of Melek, and the Nephite armies occupied the land of Jershon

There was a possibility of war







Teaching and Preparation

18th Year of the Reign of the Judges



A Review

Alma sent his sons among the Nephites to call them to repentance

The apostate Zoramites became Lamanites

The Lamanites moved into the land of Antionum in preparation for an attack upon the Nephites

The Lamanite leader was Zerahemnah

Zerahemnah

He was a Lamanite general around 74 BC

He was offered an ultimatum to surrender his weapons and enter into a covenant to desist from warfare, or be killed

He wanted to deliver up their weapons but not take the oath to never come and war again

Moroni, a Nephite Captain, would not save them unless he would surrender his weapons and take the oath of covenant

One of Moroni's men scalped Zerahemnah with the sword, but he survived

The scalper raised the scalp of Zerahemnah with the point of the sword and demanded peace

Many Lamanites surrendered their weapons and made a covenant of peace and retreated to the wilderness

Later he retracted his claim and swore an oath of peace and Moroni disarmed the enemy and sent them into the wilderness



Zerahemnah's Army

The army was made up of Lamanites, Zoramites, and Amalekites

Because the Amalekites were more wicked than the Lamanites Zerahemnah made them chief captains over the Lamanites, even the Zoramites

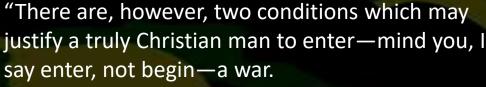
They fought for their hatred toward the Nephites in hopes of bringing them into subjection--bondage



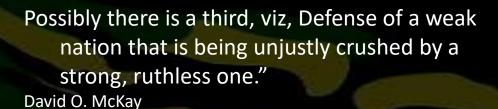
War

Nearly 1/3 of the Book of Mormon is about war

Mormon knew that we would live in a day of "wars and rumors of wars." D&C 45:26



- 1. An attempt to dominate and to deprive another of his free agency;
- 2. Loyalty to his country.





"War is an ugly thing...It causes men to do things they might not normally do. It breaks up families and causes hatred, immorality, and cheating. Those who have been involved in war are usually reluctant to recall or even to speak of what they have witnessed."

Captain Moroni

He was chief commander of the Nephite armies from around 74 BC until his retirement, not long before his death in 56 BC

He was a strong and mighty man with a 'perfect understanding'

He was 25 years old when he was appointed chief captain

He did not 'delight in bloodshed'

He believed in liberty and freedom of his country

He is known in connection with the "Title of Liberty"

Because of his leadership the people were able to take an effective stand against the Lamanites

He planned many years of action and sought the guidance and blessings of God

Eventually there was a peace for the Nephites for about 18 years

In about 56 BC he yielded up the command of his armies to his son, Moronihah, and spent his remaining years in peace



Nephite Army

The army was made up of Nephites, yet the "People of Ammon" did not join the army



Moroni was appointed to be chief captain over the Nephites

They fought for their land, houses, wives, and children...they were fighting for liberty

Attitudes of War



War is basically selfish

War impels you to hate your enemies

War originates in the hearts of men

War is rebellious and seeks to destroy morality





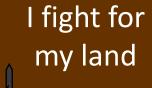




War is Incompatible with Christ's teachings

Justifying War







I fight for my home



I fight for my wife and children



I fight for my freedom



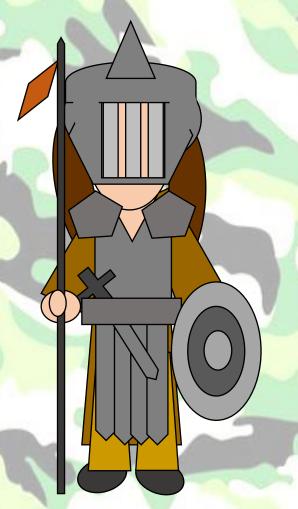
It is our duty to defend our families, our religion, and our liberties

"Without freedom of thought, freedom of choice, freedom of action within lawful bounds, man cannot progress."

Preparations

The Nephites had:

Breastplates, arm-shields, shields for their heads, and thick clothing



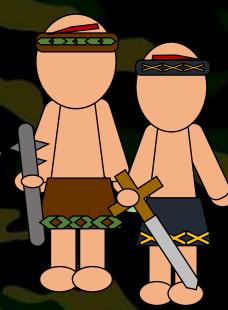
The Lamanites:

Swords, cimeters, bows and arrows, stones for their slings.

They were naked save a 'skin girded about their loins'



Did not have breastplates, or shields



Alma 43:18-21

Defending Ourselves

Having Faith in Jesus Christ

Pray continually

Applying the scriptures in our lives

Having Peace in our hearts

Seeking guidance of our Prophets

Repenting of wrongdoing

Living righteously

Living the Gospel to the fullest

Prayer For Inspiration

Moroni sent spies to the camp of the Lamanites

Moroni sent a messenger to Alma to inquire of the Lord whether to defend themselves or not



The message of the Lord was to go into battle with the Lamanites

As we pray for help in accomplishing our righteous plans and desires, God will help us accomplish them



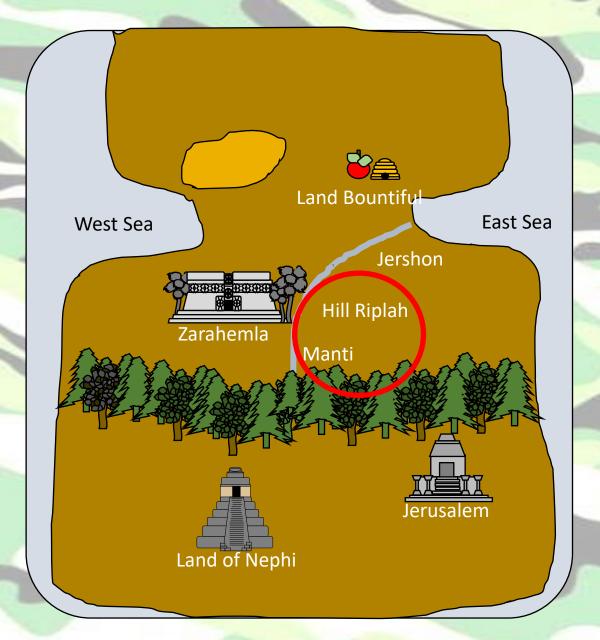
Moroni's Strategy

Moroni left part of the army in the Land of Jershon and took the remaining army to Manti

Moroni placed spies near the bank of the river Sidon



Then he divided the army and placed them on the southeast side of Hill Riplah



Lehi— A Nephite General

He was an excellent field general around 74 BC

As Moroni crossed the River Sidon...Lehi and his army came up behind the Lamanites

There was a severe battle between the Nephites and the Lamanites. Lehi held his army firm on the east of the River Sidon's shore

In around 72 BC Lehi was appointed captain over the city of Noah

The Lamanites attacked the city of Noah...however they were driven back

Lehi assisted in the defeat of the Lamanites near Bountiful (Alma 52:27-40)

He was placed in charge of the city of Mulek...one of the chief cities of the Lamanites in the land of Nephi

After the insurrection in Zarahemla...Moroni left Lehi and Teancum in charge of the forces in the field in about 61 DC and returned to claim the capital

He was also victorious in the battle in the land of Moroni and peace was restored in around 60 BC

He later assisted in defeating the Lamanite armies in Zarahemla (Helaman 1:28-30)



The Fate of the Lamanites

The forces of the Nephite army came from the front of them and behind them

Death was brought to them in almost every stroke (vs. 37)

Loss of Blood

They tried to shield themselves better

There was great destruction, and they began to flee towards the River Sidon

They were pursued by Lehi's army, and they wouldn't let the Lamanites cross the river

They tried to flee towards the land of Manti and met with Moroni's army

They fought like dragons



Jody Livingston

The Fate of the Nephites

There was a great many lost

They were inspired by a better cause

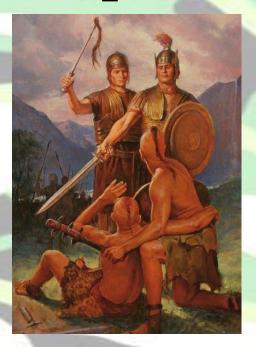
They fought for their freedom

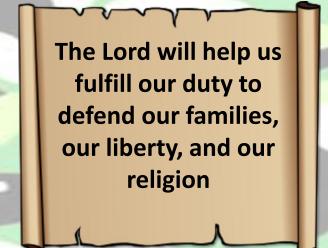
"Ye shall defend your families even unto bloodshed."

They began to stand against the Lamanites with power

They encircled them about at the river Sidon

When Moroni saw the terror of the Lamanites, he caused his men to stop shedding their blood







What About Today?

"Youth today are being raised in enemy territory with a declining standard of morality. But as a servant of the Lord, I promise that you will be protected and shielded from the attacks of the adversary if you will heed the promptings that come from the Holy Spirit.

"Dress modestly; talk reverently; listen to uplifting music. Avoid all immorality and personally degrading practices.

Take hold of your life and order yourself to be valiant. Because we depend so much on you, you will be remarkably blessed. You are never far from the sight of your loving Heavenly Father"

Boyd K. Packer

Making a Covenant—Laying down swords

Moroni knows the Lamanites are angry with them because of their religion and faith in Christ

Moroni desires not to fight They also don't want to be overpowered and 'come into bondage'

Moroni commands that
Zerahemnah make a covenant
and deliver up their weapons,
to not fight anymore and leave
and never come back



Moroni returns the weapons that Zerahemnah gave to him and said, "Behold, we will end the conflict."

Zerahemnah knows his army is surrounded Zerahemnah is willing to give up their weapons but will not take the oath and they would not believe in their God



Zerahemnah knows the Lamanites would break the oath and come back and fight

The Lord Delivers — The Lord Takes away

One of Moroni's soldiers "smote it even to the earth, and it broke by the hilt"

"...and he also smote
Zerahemnah that he
took off his scalp and
it fell to the earth"





The Lamanites had been warned that they would die unless they give up their weapons and make a covenant of peace

Zerahemnah was angry with Moroni and rushed forward that he might slay Moroni Zerahemnah withdrew from before them into the midst of his soldiers



Many were 'struck with fear' and threw down their weapons and entered into a covenant of peace...then departed into the wilderness

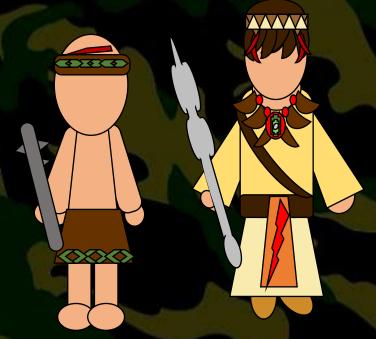
Making a Covenant—Laying down swords

Moroni commands his army to slay the Lamanites that had remained



Moroni caused the work of death to be ceased and he took their weapons

Zerahemnah continues to fight They fight with all their might, but to no avail



When Zerahemnah saw that they were about to be destroyed he did promise he would make the covenant and never come to war against them again

They departed into the wilderness

The War Goes On

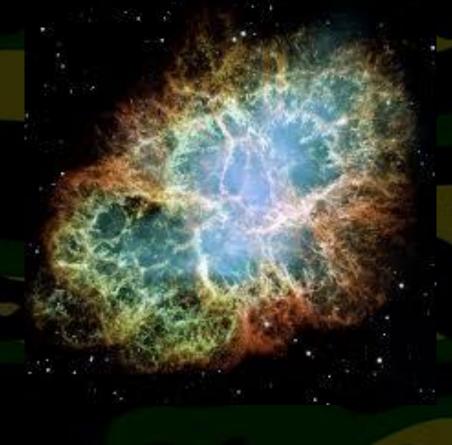
"There is [a] war that has gone on since before the world was created and which is likely to continue for a long time yet to come. ...

"That war ... is the war between truth and error, between agency and compulsion, between the followers of Christ and those who have denied Him. His enemies have used every stratagem in that conflict. ...

"... It is as it was in the beginning. ... The victims who fall are as precious as those who have fallen in the past. It is an ongoing battle. ...

"The war goes on. ... It is waged in our own lives, day in and day out, in our homes, in our work, in our school associations; it is waged over questions of love and respect, of loyalty and fidelity, of obedience and integrity. We are all involved in it.

... We are winning, and the future never looked brighter"
--Gordon B. Hinckley





Sources:

David O. McKay Conference Report, April 1942 pg 72

Book of Mormon Who's Who Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 124-125, 197-198

"Lamanite" Warrior from Apocolypto [source: Icon Distribution]

Boyd K. Packer ("Counsel to Youth," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2011, 18).

Gordon B. Hinckley ("The War We Are Winning," Ensign, Nov. 1986, 42, 44–45).

Nephite Plans	Lamanite Plans

Spiritual War:

The battle with sin is real. The adversary is quadrupling his efforts to disrupt testimonies and impede the work of the Lord. He is arming his minions with potent weapons to keep us from partaking of the joy and love of the Lord. (Russell M. Nelson, "We Can Do Better and Be Better," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2019, 68)

The adversary is increasing his attacks on faith and upon us and our families at an exponential rate. To survive spiritually, we need counterstrategies and proactive plans. (Russell M. Nelson, "Opening Remarks," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2018, 7)

Protection from the Adversary:

We have been promised that "if [we] are prepared [we] shall not fear" [Doctrine and Covenants 38:30]. This assurance has profound implications today. The Lord has declared that despite today's unprecedented challenges, those who build their foundations upon Jesus Christ, and have learned how to draw upon His power, need not succumb to the unique anxieties of this era. (Russell M. Nelson, "The Temple and Your Spiritual Foundation," *Liahona*, Nov. 2021, 94)

Year Started	Year Ended	Conflict
2020	2021	Chine-India Skirmishes
2020	Ongoing	Western Togoland Rebellion
2020	2020	Second Nagorno-Karabakh war
2020	Ongoing	Afar-Somali clashes, part of Ethiopian civil conflict of 2018
2020	2022	Tigray War/ Part of Ethiopian civil conflict (2018)
2020	Ongoing	Western Saharan clashes/part of Western Sahara conflict
2020	022	Ethiopian-Sudanese clashes
2021	Ongoing	Insurgency of Southeastern Nigeria
2021	2021	Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan clashes
2021	Ongoing	Myanmar civil war/Part of internal conflict
2021	2021	Israel-Palestine crisis
2021	Ongoing	Armenia-Azerbaijan border crisis/Par of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict
2021	Ongoing	Republican insurgency in Afghanistan/Part of Afghanistan (1978-present)
2021	2021	Afghanistan-Iran clashes

Mormon knew that we would live in a day of "wars and rumors of wars." D&C 45:26

Year Started

2022

2022

Year Ended

Ongoing

2022

"And in that day shall be heard of wars and rumors of wars, and the whole earth shall be in commotion, and men's hearts shall fail them, and they shall say that Christ delayed his coming until the end of the earth."

Doctrine and Covenants 45:26

Somali Civil War 2022 Gaza-Israel clashes/Part of Israeli-2022 Palestinian conflict 2022 2022 Armenian-Azerbaijani clashes/ Part of Azerbaijan border crisis Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan clashes 2022 2022 2023 Las Anod conflict Ongoing 2023 War in Amhara/Part of Ethiopian civil Ongoing conflict (2018) 2023 2023 Afghanistan-Iran clash Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan clashes 2023 Ongoing Wagner Group rebellion/Part of the 2023 2023 Russian invasion of Ukraine 2023 2023 Azerbaijani offensive in Nagorno-Karabakh 2023 Israel-Hamas War/Part of the Gaza-Ongoing Israel conflict 2023 Israel-Lebanon border clashes/Part of Ongoing the Israel-Hamas war 2024 Conflict in Ecuador Ongoing

Conflict

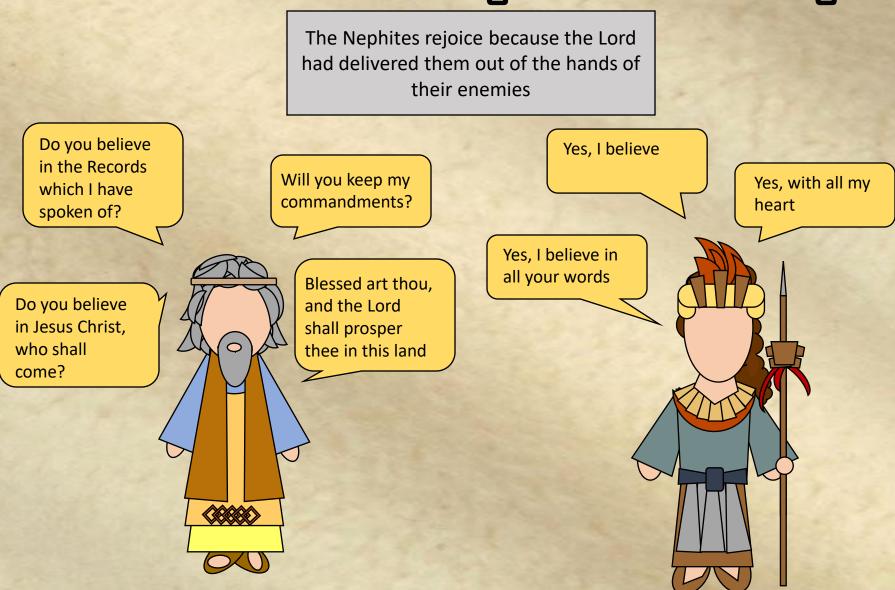
Russian invasion of Ukraine

Shabaab invasion of Ethiopia/Part of

Title of Liberty Alma 45-48



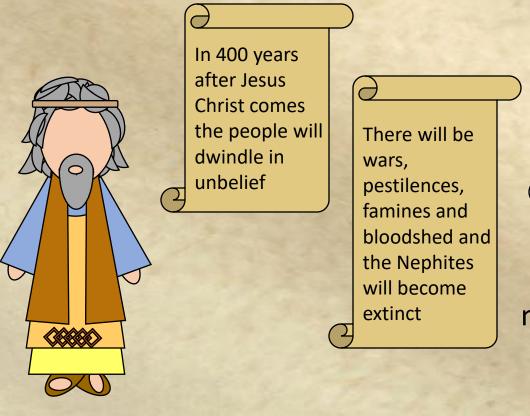
19th Year of the Reign of the Judges



Alma's Prophesy

Helaman was to write down Alma's word

Alma's prophecy will not be made known until it is fulfilled



Those who are not destroyed shall be numbered among the Lamanites

The people must have faith in order to believe in the prophesy

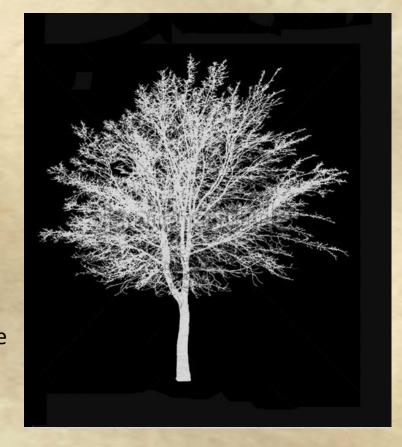


The Curse And A Blessing

Curse shall be the land---wickedness

In the scriptures, a curse is the application of divine law that allows or brings judgments and their consequences upon a thing, person, or people primarily because of unrighteousness. Curses are a manifestation of God's divine love and justice...

A cursed state is experienced by those who willfully disobey God and thereby withdraw themselves from the Spirit of the Lord.



Blessing of God upon the land—obedience

To confer divine favor upon someone. Anything contributing to true happiness, well-being, or prosperity is a blessing.

All blessings are based on eternal law.

Because God wants his children to find joy in life, he grants blessings to them as a result of their obedience to his commandments (in answer to a prayer or priesthood ordinance, or through his grace (2 Ne. 25:23).

The Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.

Alma Departs

Alma gives a blessing on the church and all those who would stand fast in the faith from that time henceforth



Alma departed out of the land of Zarahemla to go to the land of Melek and was never heard of more

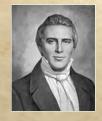
"Behold, this we know, that he was a righteous man; and the saying went abroad in the church that he was taken up by the Spirit, or buried by the hand of the Lord, even as Moses.

But behold, the scriptures saith the Lord took Moses unto himself; and we suppose that he has also received Alma in the spirit, unto himself; therefore, for this cause we know nothing concerning his death and burial."



Alma 45:17-19

Was Alma Translated?



"translated bodies are designed for future missions" –Joseph Smith



Those who have been translated are:

The Three Nephites
John the Revelator
Moses
Elijah



"There are several important prophets who were granted the privilege of remaining on the earth...It is a very reasonable thought to believe that both Moses and Alma, like Elijah and John, were translated to accomplish some work which the Lord had In store for them at some future day.

When righteous individuals are translated, their bodies are changed so they are not subject to mortal pain or death. Sometimes translated beings are taken from the earth without experiencing death in order to fulfill the Lord's purposes. Translated beings, however, will undergo a future change as they pass from a translated state to a resurrected state."

Joseph Fielding Smith

Elder Bruce R. McConkie (1915–85) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles explained that the phrase "taken up by the Spirit, or buried by the hand of the Lord" suggests that Alma was translated:

Book of Mormon Student Manual



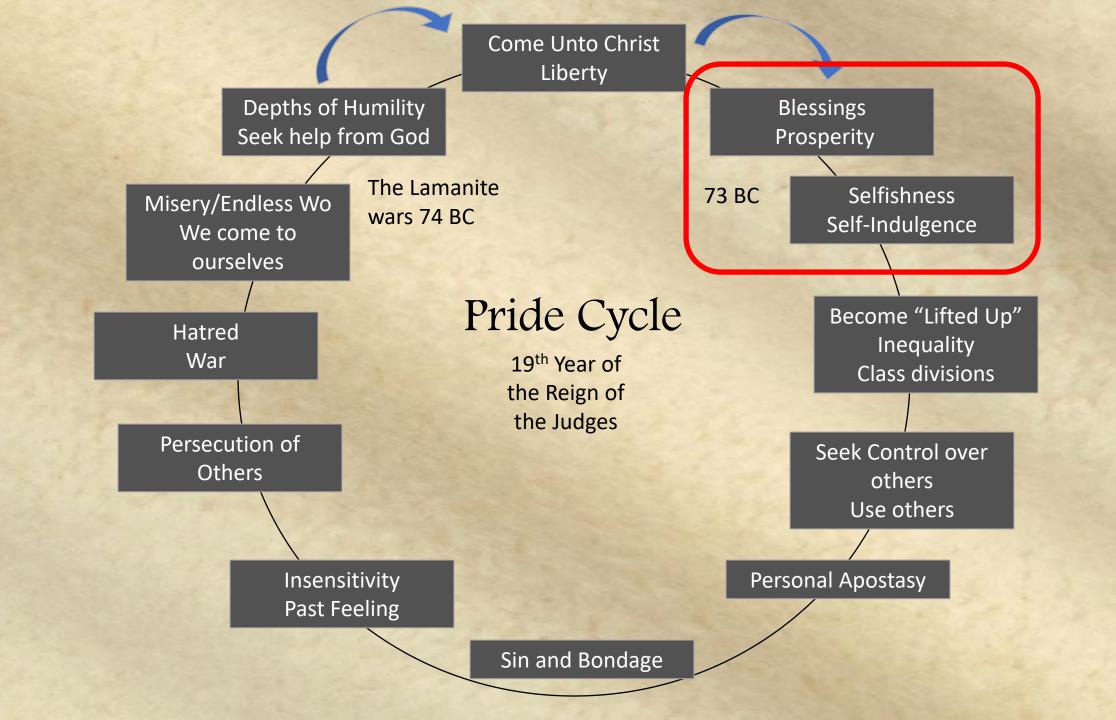
Establishing the Church

Helaman and his brethren establish the church again in all the land



Organized with priests and teachers

However:



Amalickiah

He was a Nephite dissenter who desired power and authority over the Nephites about 73 BC

He directed all his efforts at destroying the Church of God and the government of the people in order to rule over all

During the hoisted 'title of liberty' Moroni thwarted Amalickiah's plans and he fled to the Lamanites

He had servants poison Lehonti and kill the Lamanite king

By deceit he gained control of the Lamanite armies, the throne itself, and married the wife of the murdered Lamanite king.

He unleashed a massive assault against the Nephite strongholds (Alma 48:2)

His plan was put down by Moroni and his forces

He was killed by Teancum by a javelin into his heart as he slept about 65 BC



Those Who Kept Things Stirred Up



All were powerful speakers and clever propagandists and skilled in the use of 'flattering words'

All sought to undermine the highest authority of the church and state, being particularly opposed to popular government and drawing their support from those who sought to overthrow it."

Amalickiah

Zerahemnah

Amalickiah's Influence

One Wicked Man:

Many followed him—he was a "large and a strong man"

Many lower judges were seeking for power

Many were flattered by Amalickiah

Many supported him to be king

Many were led away and believed his words

Many were "quick to forget the Lord their God"



When we forget the Lord, we can more easily be led to do iniquity

One Wicked Man—One Righteous Man

Amalickiah wanted to:

Destroy the church of God

Destroy the foundation of liberty

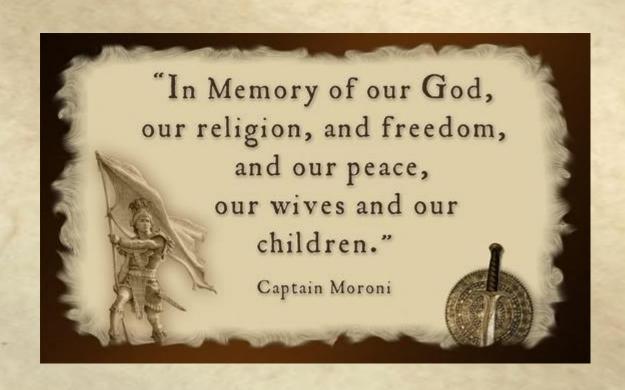


Moroni wanted to:

Restore the religions, freedoms and peace in the land



The Title of Liberty





Our Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."





How can we protect our religion, our freedoms, our families in our land?

How can we do this in other lands?





Our Allegiance

"First, we can become informed. Be aware of issues in your community that could have an impact on religious liberty.

"Second, in your individual capacity, join with others who share our commitment to religious freedom. Work side by side to protect religious freedom.





"Third, live your life to be a good example of what you believe—in word and deed. How we live our religion is far more important than what we may say about our religion." Robert D. Hales

The Lord wants us to defend the sacred blessing of religious freedom He has given us.

Entering Into A Covenant

Rent their garments...to tear To maintain their rights

To take upon themselves the covenant to not forsake their God



RACHEL DAVISON

To remined them that they were the descendants of Joseph

Cast his Clothing at Another's Feet

Treading upon one's garments is an ancient ritual practice attested in early Christian Coptic texts where individuals became members of the early church by trampling their clothes as a token of trampling old sins or the old life.

Remnant of the Seed of Joseph

"Yea, let us preserve our liberty as a remnant of Joseph; yea, let us remember the words of Jacob, before his death, for behold, he saw that a part of the remnant of the coat of Joseph was preserved and had not decayed. And he said—Even as this remnant of garment of my son hath been preserved, so shall a remnant of the seed of my son be preserved by the hand of God, and be taken unto himself, while the remainder of the seed of Joseph shall perish, even as the remnant of his garment."



Undermining the Government

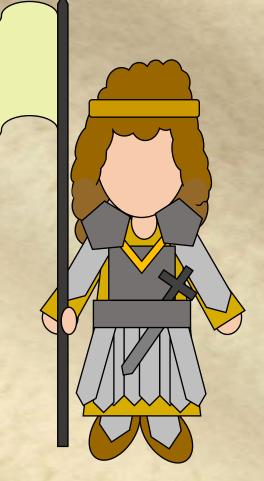


Amalickiah and his followers realized they were outnumbered, so they went to the land of Nephi, seeking to join the Lamanites.

Many of Amalickiah's followers entered into a covenant to support freedom.

The few who would not enter into the covenant were put to death they had undermined the Church and the Government. Moroni's army stopped most of Amalickiah's group from reaching the land of Nephi.





Amalickiah and a small number of his men escaped and joined the Lamanites.

A Tower in Every Land

"Human liberty is the mainspring of human progress.

The one great revolution in the world is the revolution for human liberty. This was the paramount issue in the great council in heaven before this earth life. It has been the issue throughout the ages. It is the issue today...





...this is our need today—to plant the standard of liberty among our people throughout the Americas..."
Ezra Taft Benson



The Fraud



Amalickiah goes to the Land of Nephi to stir up the Lamanites against the Nephites

Amalickiah did not give up his goal to gain power over the Nephites. He devised a cunning plan to dethrone the king of the Lamanites and become their king so he could eventually lead the Lamanites to battle against the Nephites.

When Amalickiah joined the Lamanites, he gained the favor of their king, who gave him command over a portion of the Lamanite army.

The king ordered Amalickiah and his army to pursue a disobedient faction of the Lamanite army, led by a man named Lehonti. Amalickiah was ordered to compel Lehonti's army to take up arms against the Nephites, but Amalickiah had different plans.



Lehonti

He was a part of the Lamanite army around 72 BC

His army resisted the Lamanite King to go to war with the Nephites and fled into the mountains

Amalickiah came against him as commander of that part of the army who was loyal to the king

He was lured by Amalickiah from the mountain stronghold to a conference in which Amalickiah would be Lehonti's second in command

Being tricked, Lehonti's army was surrounded

Amalickiah ordered one of his servants to kill Lehonti by administering poison to him.

So as a result, Amalickiah, who was second in command, assumed full control of all the Lamanite forces



Gathering On The Mountain





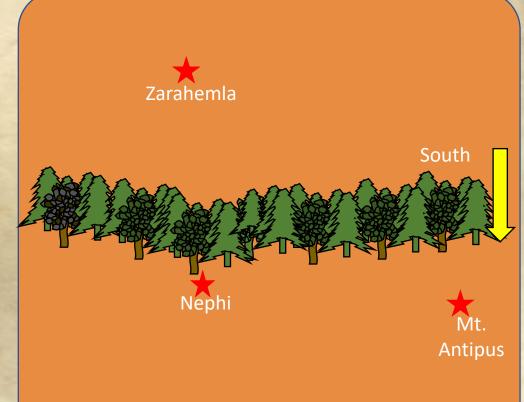
Why do you think Lehonti's army gathered at the top of a mountain?

What advantage does an army have if it is on higher ground than its enemy?

Who To Trust?



Alma the Elder said:
"And also trust no one
to be your teacher nor
your minister, except
he be a man of God,
walking in his ways
and keeping his
commandments."
Mosiah 23:14





Amalickiah is a good example of the reason for such counsel: We cannot always discern the secret thoughts and intents of another's heart.

If we give in to Satan's temptations even a little, we give him greater influence to lead us astray.

Argue for the Sake of Argument

One way Satan may try to entice us to lower our standards is in the way we discuss the gospel with friends and acquaintances. More and more is being written positively and negatively about the Church, online and in print.

People who are honestly seeking the truth will naturally ask questions or even initiate discussions about the gospel. However, others intend only to argue for the sake of argument or to undermine faith.

I'm not arguing, I'm just explaining why I'm right





Don't Leave The High Ground

"Some may try to provoke us and engage us in argument. In the Book of Mormon, we read about Lehonti and his men camped upon a mount.

The traitorous Amalickiah urged Lehonti to 'come down' and meet him in the valley. But when Lehonti left the high ground, he was poisoned 'by degrees' until he died, and his army fell into Amalickiah's hands (see Alma 47).

By arguments and accusations, some people bait us to leave the high ground. The high ground is where the light is. It's where we see the first light of morning and the last light in the evening. It is the safe ground. It is true and where knowledge is.

Sometimes others want us to come down off the high ground and join them in a theological scrum in the mud. These few contentious individuals are set on picking religious fights, online or in person. We are always better staying on the higher ground of mutual respect and love."

Robert D. Hales



Deceit and Murder

Poisons Lehonti

Had the king stabbed

Charged the servants with murder







Took the queen as his wife

Satan seeks to destroy us, and he entices us by degrees to lower our standards

Drinking In With the Traditions of the Lamanites

The Lamanite Nation consisted of:

Lamanites
Lemuelites
Ishmaelites
All the dissenter of the Nephites
from the reign of Nephi down to the
present time





The character of a dissenter:

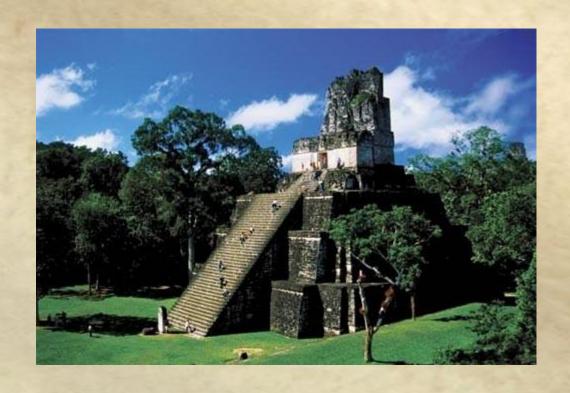
Hardened and impenitent
More wild, wicked and ferocious
Giving way to indolence and all manner of
lasciviousness

Entirely forgetting the Lord their God



Speaking in Towers

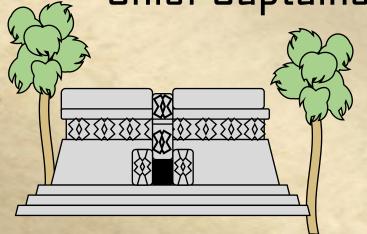
Amalickiah obtained the kingdom and began to inspire the hearts of the Lamanites to go against the people of Nephi





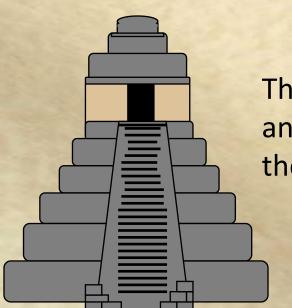
Amalickiah sought to reign over all the land

Chief Captains of the Lamanite Army



Amalickiah appointed the Zoramites as the chief captains





They took their camp and moved toward the land of Zarahemla

Moroni's Preparation

"Now it came to pass that while Amalickiah had thus been obtaining power by fraud and deceit, Moroni, on the other hand, had been preparing the minds of the people to be faithful unto the Lord their God."





Moroni was:

Strengthening the armies of the Nephites

Erecting small forts or places of resort

Throwing up banks of earth round about to enclose his armies

Building walls of stone to surround their cities and borders and lands

Alma 48:7-10

Moroni's Character

A strong and mighty man

Believed in supporting their liberty, lands and all the people

He did not 'delight' in bloodshed

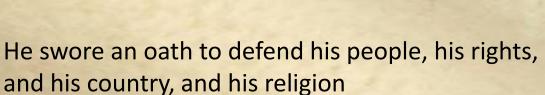
He was a man of "perfect understanding"

He was a man firm in the faith of Christ



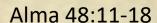






He knew that the Lord was with him and his people

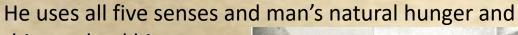
He was compared to the sons of Mosiah and Alma and his sons—for they were all men of God



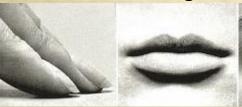
The Adversary

He never sleeps—he is diligent and persevering.

He analyzes carefully his problem and then moves forward diligently, methodically to reach that objective.



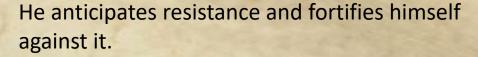
thirst to lead him away.











He uses time and space and leisure. He is constant and persuasive and skillful.

He uses such useful things as radio, television, the internet, the printed page, and the phone to distort and damage.





The Adversary

He uses the gregariousness of man, his loneliness, his every need to lead him astray.

He does his work at the most propitious time in the most impressive places with the most influential people.

He overlooks nothing that will deceive and distort and prostitute.

He uses money, power, force.

He entices man and attacks at his weakest spot.

He takes the good and creates ugliness. ...
He uses every teaching art to subvert man.







The adversary is subtle. He is cunning. He knows that he cannot induce good men and women to do major evils immediately, so he moves slyly, whispering half-truths until he has his intended captives following him

Fortifying Ourselves Against the Adversary

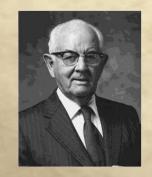
If we would escape [the] deadly thrusts of the evil one and keep our homes and families free and solidly fortified against all destructive influences so rampant about us, we must have the help of ... the Creator himself.

There is only one sure way and that is through the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and being obedient to its profound and inspired teachings.

In the life of everyone there comes the conflict between good and evil, between Satan and the Lord.

Every person who has reached or passed the age of accountability of eight years, and who with a totally repentant heart is baptized properly, positively will receive the Holy Ghost.

Spencer W. Kimball



Fortifying Ourselves Against the Adversary

If heeded, this member of the Godhead will guide, inspire, and warn, and will neutralize the promptings of the evil one.

He who has greater strength than Lucifer, he who is our fortress and our strength, can sustain us in times of great temptation.

While the Lord will never forcibly take anyone out of sin or out of the arms of the tempters, he exerts his Spirit to induce the sinner to do it with divine assistance.

And the man who yields to the sweet influence and pleadings of the Spirit and does all in his power to stay in a repentant attitude is guaranteed protection, power, freedom and joy.

Spencer W. Kimball





A Nephite's Character

They humbled themselves

They were highly favored of the Lord

They were compelled reluctantly to contend with their brethren, the Lamanites

They were sorry to take up arms against the Lamanites and bringing so many to meet their death

They needed to protect their families

They knew that if they kept the commandments that they would prosper in the land



Protecting Your Liberties

"...But the Church membership are citizens or subjects of sovereignties over which the church has no control...When, therefore, constitutional law, obedient to these principles, calls the manhood of the church into the armed service of any country to which they owe allegiance, their highest civic duty requires that they meet that call.

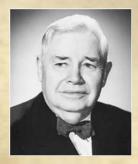




If, harkening to that call and obeying those in command over them, they shall take the lives of those who fight against them, that will not make of them murderers nor subject them to the penalty that God has prescribed for those who kill, beyond the principle to be mentioned shortly.

For it would be a cruel God that would punish His children as moral sinners for acts done by them as the innocent instrumentalities of a sovereign whom He had told them to obey and whose will they were powerless to resist."

J. Reuben Clark, Jr.



As members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, what does the Lord expect of us?

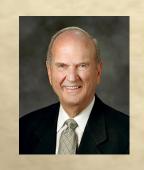
As a Church, we must "renounce war and proclaim peace".

As individuals, we should "follow after the things which make for peace".

We should be personal peacemakers.

We should live peacefully—as couples, families, and neighbors. We should live by the Golden Rule. Russell M. Nelson

Therefore, renounce war and proclaim peace, and seek diligently to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers, and the hearts of the fathers to the children;



Doctrine and Covenants 98:16



Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

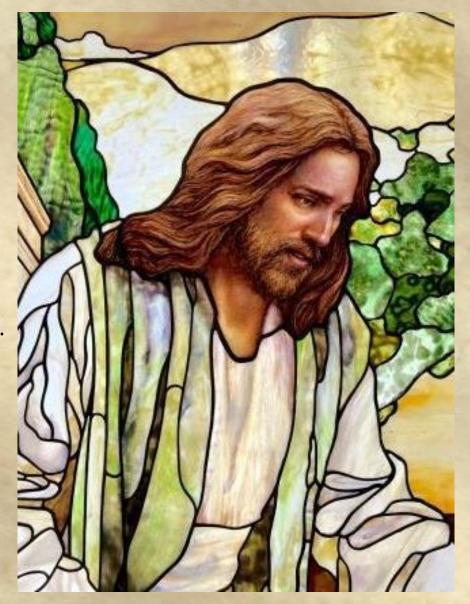
Romans 14:19

Religious Freedom:

Freedom of religion is a basic principle of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and a fundamental human right.

Moral agency is the ability to choose right from wrong and to act for ourselves; it is essential to God's plan of salvation.

Religious freedom ensures that people can exercise their agency in matters of faith.



Sources:

Joseph Smith History of the Church 4:425 Joseph Fielding Smith Answers to Gospel Questions 5:38 Translated: Book of Mormon Student Manual Chapter 33: Alma 43-51 (2009—248-55) The Book of Mormon Who's Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 15, 111 Robert D. Hales, "Preserving Agency, Protecting Religious Freedom," Ensign or Liahona, May 2015, 113 Ezra Taft Benson Oct. 1962 Conf. Report pg. 14-15 Robert D. Hales ("Christian Courage: The Price of Discipleship," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2008, 74). Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Spencer W. Kimball, (2006), 102–13 J. Reuben Clark, Jr. Conference Report April 1942 pg. 94-95 Hugh Nibley Since Cumorah p. 302 Ogden and Skinner, Book of Mormon 2:67-68 Russell M. Nelson, "Blessed Are the Peacemakers," Ensign, Nov. 2002, 41) Gospel Topics: Religious Freedom

In Memory of Our God:

There are many on the earth who know very little of Jesus Christ, and in some parts of the world where His name has been proclaimed for centuries, faith in Jesus Christ is diminishing. ...

As the world speaks less of Jesus Christ, let us speak more of Him. As our true colors as His disciples are revealed, many around us will be prepared to listen. (Neil L. Andersen, "We Talk of Christ," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2020, 88, 90)

In Memory of Our Religion:

If we cease valuing our churches for any reason, we threaten our personal spiritual life, and significant numbers separating themselves from God reduce His blessings to our nations.

Attendance and activity in a church help us become better people and better influences on the lives of others. In church we are taught how to apply religious principles. We learn from one another. ...

... I pray that we will all be steadfast in these Church experiences as we seek eternal life, the greatest of all the gifts of God. (Dallin H. Oaks, "The Need for a Church," *Liahona*, Nov. 2021, 24, 26)

In Memory of Our Freedom:

What is religious freedom?

It is freedom of worship in all its configurations: freedom of assembly, freedom of speech, freedom to act on personal beliefs, and freedom for others to do the same. Religious freedom allows each of us to decide for ourselves what we believe, how we live and act according to our faith, and what God expects of us. ...

I invite you to champion the cause of religious freedom. It is an expression of the God-given principle of agency.

Religious freedom brings balance to competing philosophies. The good of religion, its reach, and the daily acts of love which religion inspires only multiply when we protect the freedom to express and act on core beliefs. (Ronald A. Rasband, "To Heal the World," *Liahona*, May 2022, 91, 93)

In Memory Of...

In Memory of Our Peace:

The Healer of every wound, He who rights every wrong, asks us to labor with Him in the daunting task of peacemaking in a world that won't find it any other way. ...

... I ask us to be peacemakers—to love peace, to seek peace, to create peace, to cherish peace. I make that appeal in the name of the Prince of Peace. (Jeffrey R. Holland, "The Ministry of Reconciliation," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, Nov. 2018, 79)

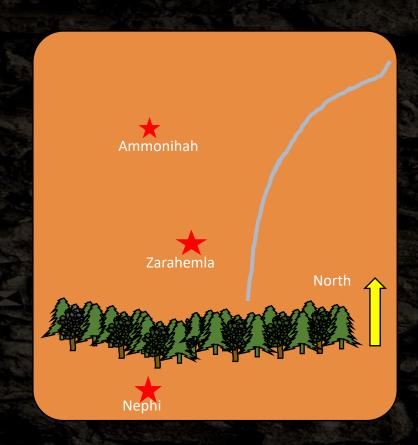
In Memory of Our Families:

Everyone, no matter what their marital circumstance or number of children, can be defenders of the Lord's plan described in the family proclamation. If it is the Lord's plan, it should also be our plan! ...

... Let us help build the kingdom of God by standing up boldly and being defenders of marriage, parenthood, and the home. The Lord needs us to be brave, steadfast, and immovable warriors who will defend His plan and teach the upcoming generations His truths. (Bonnie L. Oscarson, "Defenders of the Family Proclamation," *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2015, 15, 17)

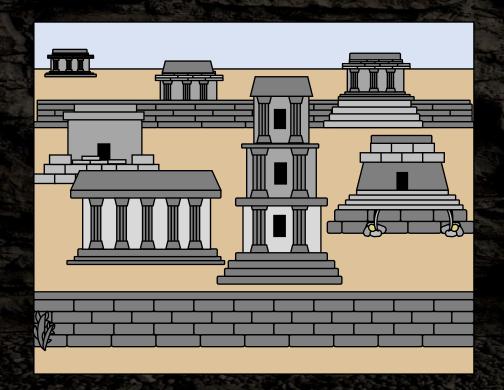


Ammonihah



The Lamanites were seen approaching towards the land of Ammonihah

The city had been rebuilt and Moroni had stationed an army by the borders of the city



A Ridge of Earth

The Nephites had dug up a ridge of earth





They dug around their city so high that the Lamanites could not throw stones or arrows beyond the earth





Frustration



The Lamanites had prepared themselves with shields, breastplates and covered themselves with 'garments of skin'





They thought with their numbers they could overpower the Nephites

Amalickiah did not come down from the city of Nephi himself to battle—if he would have, he would have attacked the Nephites in Ammonihah



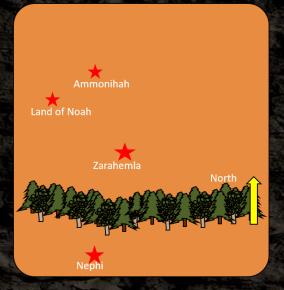
The Lamanites retreated

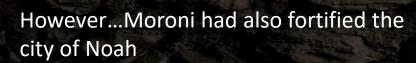
Marching to the Land of Noah

The Lamanites marched to the land of Noah...hoping for more action

They took an oath that they would destroy that city

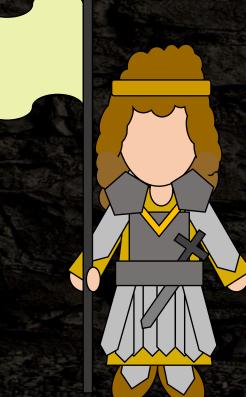






Moroni sent Lehi to be chief captain over the men in that city

Again, the Lamanites were disappointed—nevertheless they 'sworn an oath' to attack the city



The Place of Entrance



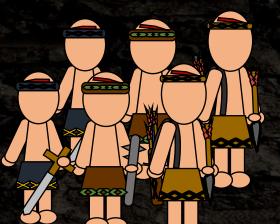
The only way anyone could get into the cities that Moroni had fortified was through an entrance that was heavily guarded by the strongest men to defend that city

The Nephites would destroy anyone trying to climb the walls by casting stones and arrows at them

The Lamanites brought armies to the place of entrance...but they were driven back



The Great Loss

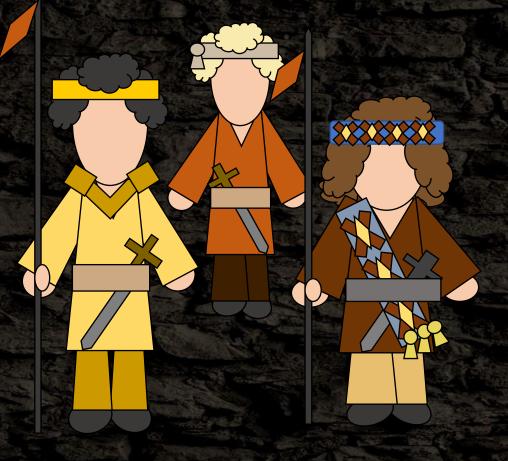


The Lamanites:

The chief captains were all slain



The rest fled into the wilderness and returned to the land of Nephi to tell the king, Amalickiah about their great loss



The Nephites:

Not a single soul was slain

50 were wounded

Amalickiah—Satan's Advocate



"Satan is our greatest enemy and works night and day to destroy us. But we need not become paralyzed with fear of Satan's power.

He can have no power over us unless we permit it. He is really a coward, and if we stand firm he will retreat."

James E. Faust



A Cursing and Gratitude

Amalickiah:

Was angry with his people

Was 'wroth' with God and cursed Him

Was 'wroth' with Moroni swearing an oath that he would 'drink his blood'



The People of Nephi:

Thanked the Lord their God because of his 'matchless power' in delivering them from the hands of their enemies.

"Yea, and there was continual peace among them, and exceedingly great prosperity in the church because of their heed and diligence which they gave unto the word of God, which was declared unto them by Helaman, and Shiblon, and Corianton, and Ammon and his brethren, yea, and by all those who had been ordained by the holy order of God, being baptized unto repentance, and sent forth to preach among the people."

Alma 49:26-30

Moroni's Stronghold

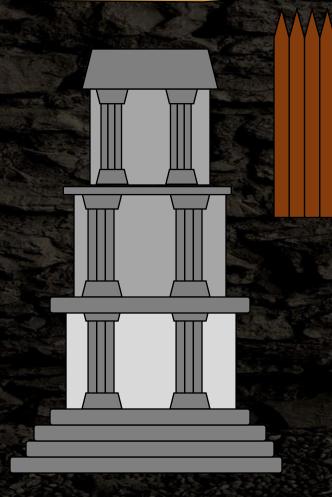
Ridges of earth

Timbers built up

Towers to be erected

Stones and arrows made and collected





Strengthening Your Spiritual Walls of Protection

Honoring and obeying your parents

Listening and heeding to the prophets of today

Sincere repentance and forgiving others

Being honest in all things

Attending Church regularly

Maintaining the standards of the Church

Giving Service

Reading and Studying the scriptures

Praying with real intent and sincerity

Renewing your covenants by partaking of the sacrament



"As the forces around us increase in intensity, whatever spiritual strength was once sufficient will not be enough.

And whatever growth in spiritual strength we once thought was possible, greater growth will be made available to us.

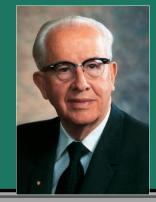
Both the need for spiritual strength and the opportunity to acquire it will increase at rates which we underestimate at our peril."

President Henry B. Eyring



I will prepare to withstand temptation by...

I will stand firm when...

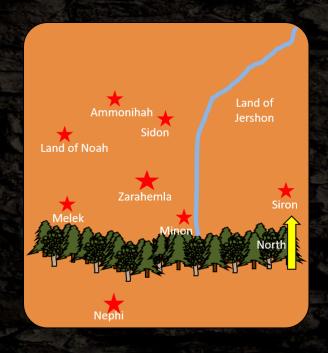


"It is better to prepare and prevent than it is to repair and repent"

Ezra Taft Benson

Driving the Enemy Away

Moroni caused that his armies go forth to the east wilderness and drive all the Lamanites back to their own lands

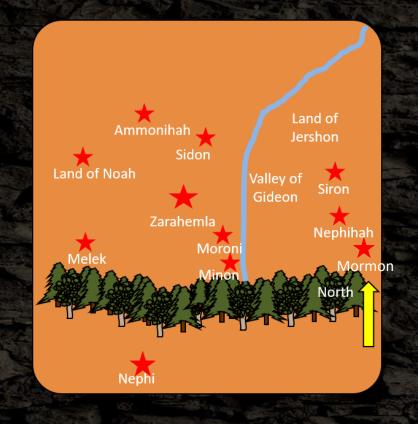


Moroni also caused that the inhabitants go to that east wilderness and by the borders of the seashore and posses that land and fortify those lands, cutting off all stronghold of the Lamanites between the land of Zarahemla and the land of Nephi

New Cities Built

Nephites begin a new foundation and called it "Moroni"

They also began a foundation for a city between the city of Moroni and the city of Aaron called "Nephihah"



Many other cities did they build and that ended the 20th year of the reign of the judges—about 72 to 67 BC

Destruction or Prosperity

"And we see that these promises have been verified to the people of Nephi; for it has been their quarrelings and their contentions, yea, their murderings, and their plunderings, their idolatry, their whoredoms, and their abominations, which were among themselves, which brought upon them their wars and their destructions."

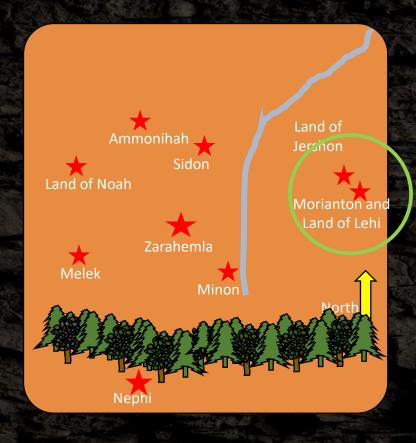


"And those who were faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord were delivered at all times, whilst thousands of their wicked brethren have been consigned to bondage, or to perish by the sword, or to dwindle in unbelief, and mingle with the Lamanites."

"But behold there never was a happier time among the people of Nephi, since the days of Nephi, than in the days of Moroni, yea, even at this time, in the twenty and first year of the reign of the judges."

What Causes Division?

Two joining borders of the land of Morianton and the land of Lehi began to have contention



Morianton

He was a Nephite introduced in about 68 BC

He caused a rebellion among the people living in Morianton and the city of Lehi

He claimed that part of the property of city of Lehi belonged to the people living in Morianton

Because the problem was presented to Moroni, Morianton and his followers went into the land northward (Land of Desolation)

He beat one of his maid servants who went and told Moroni's camp about the incident

Moroni sent Teanchum and his army to head off the forces of Morianton

He was killed during this battle

The people of Morianton covenanted to maintain peace with their neighbors and was sent back to their land



Teancum

He was a commander of the Nephite forces from around 74 BC until 56 BC

Moroni place him in charge of a quelling rebellion between two Nephite groups (one led by Morianton)

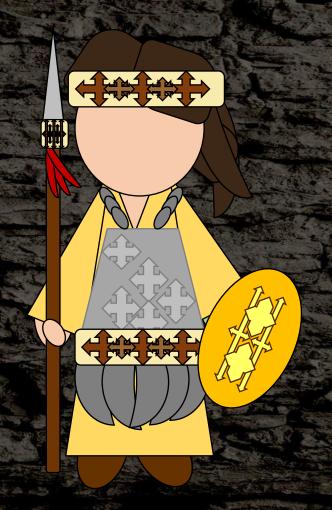
He engaged in forces of the Lamanite army under Amalickiah, a Nephite dissenter

He killed Amalickiah one night in Amalickiah's battle tent by putting a javelin in Amalickiah's heart

Toward the end of Moroni's career Teancum and Lehi were placed in charge of the Nephite forces in battle

He also thrust a javelin in the heart of Amalickiah's brother, Ammoron

The king, during this time, alerted the guards and killed Teancum in about 56 BC



Nephihah

He was the second chief judge in Zarahemla

He succeeded Alma the Younger around 83 BC

He was selected as a wise man among the elders of the church and gave him power according to the voice of the people

He declined Alma's invitation to manage the sacred records of the people

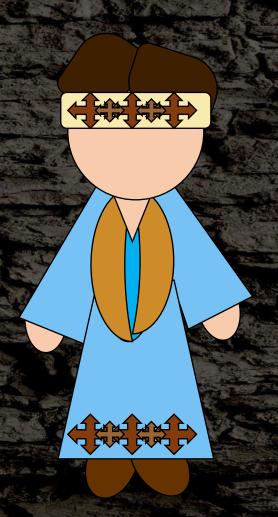
His son Pahoran succeeded him as chief judge and governor of the land

He served in his public leadership capacity until his death around 67 BC

His tenure included:

The destruction of Ammonihah by the Lamanites Establishment of Jershon and protector
The dissention of the Zoramites

The insurrection of Amalickiah



Pahoran I

He was the Son of Nephihah

He succeeded his father as chief judge and governor in Zarahemla around 67 BC for 17 years..he was the 3rd chief following the reign of Mosiah

He took an oath to keep the peace and freedoms of the people

He worked with Captain Moroni to restore peace to the land in the wake of rebellion by the "king-men"

He is best known for his correspondence with Moroni

He was accused by Moroni, at one point, of disloyalty and misuse of funds for not sending vitally needed men and supplies for the war effort

However, Moroni didn't know that Pahoran had to flee for his life and that he was doing all in his power to send forces

Moroni and Pahoran then collaborated in a campaign lasting 2 years to rid the capital of "king-men"

After Pahoran's death, in about 52 BC, his son Pahoran succeeded him



Who's Who

King-men and Freemen

The 25th year of the Reign of the Judges—about 67-66 BC

King-men

Wanted Pahoran to be dethroned from the judgment-seat

Wanted the law changed to overthrow the free government and establish a king over the land

Those of 'high birth'

Those who sought power and authority over the

people

Opposing groups—they are people who seek to overthrow the government of the land in favor of a kingdom

Freemen

Wanted Pahoran to remain as chief judge

Wanted their right and privileges to their religion



Division and contention destroy our peace

The voice of the people went in favor of the freemen

Refusing to Defend Their Country

Amalickiah again gathers up his army

When the king-men heard the Lamanites coming to battle they refused to take up arms to defend their country.

"And it came to pass that he sent a petition, with the voice of the people, unto the governor of the land, desiring that he should read it, and give him (Moroni) power to compel those dissenters to defend their country or to put them to death."



4,000 dissenters were hewn down by the sword, those who were not slain were put in prison





Refusing to Defend Our Country

Draft evasion is an intentional decision not to comply with the military conscription policies of one's nation.

Such practices that do not involve law breaking or which are based on conscientious objection are sometimes referred to as "draft avoidance." Refusing to submit, the draft is considered a criminal offense in most countries where conscription is in effect.

Those who practice draft evasion are sometimes pejoratively referred to as "draft dodgers," a term which was made popular during the Vietnam War.

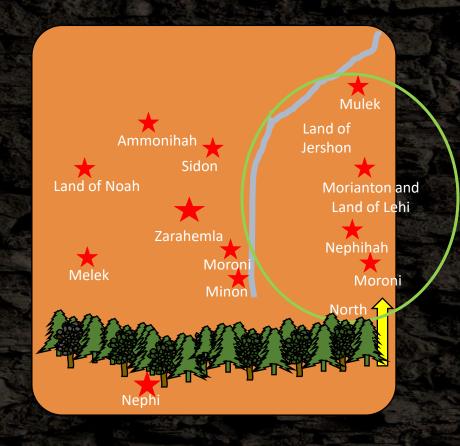
Draft evasion is distinct from desertion in that only an active member of a military service can become a deserter by absenting himself from military service without receiving a valid leave of absence or discharge and without any intention of returning to the service.



Taking Possession

While Moroni was taking care of the dissenters

Amalickiah was taking possession of many cities (See Alma 51:26)



Don't Mess With Teancum

Alma 51:29-37



Sources:

Breastplate--Radiocarbon tests would date the burials to about A.D. 900—the era when the Maya civilization, some 800 miles to the northwest.

James E. Faust ("Be Not Afraid," Ensign, Oct. 2002, 4).

Henry B. Eyring ("Always," Ensign, Oct. 1999, 9).

(The Teachings of Ezra Taft Benson [1988], 285).

Book of Mormon Who's Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen p. 121-122, 145, 153-154, 178-179

Draft Evasion--http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Draft_evasion

More interesting information from the lands in South America on the next 3 slides



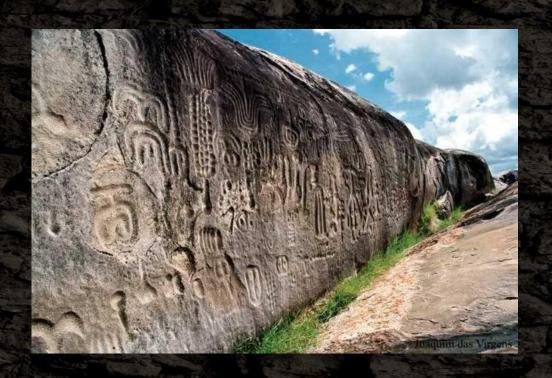
December (2012), Haas and Creamer again made headlines with a paper in Nature that presented carbon datings for 13 sites with platform mounds and residential complexes in river valleys near Caral.

Some appeared to be even older than Caral, with dates as early as 3200 B.C. "It is now clear," the couple wrote, that Caral and other Supe Valley sites "were parts of a much more extensive cultural system that reached across at least three valleys and an area of 1,800 square kilometers." They called the region the Norte Chico, a colloquial term for the north-central coast of Peru. And they mentioned Shady only in their footnotes.



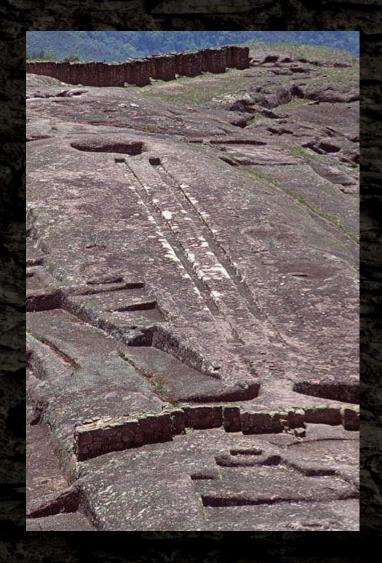
The Ingá Stone (Pedra do Ingá in Portuguese) is located in near the small city of Ingá in the Paraíba State in the northeast of Brazil. The Ingá Stone is also called Itacoatiara do Ingá. The word Itacoatiara means stone in the Tupi language of the natives that lived in that area. It is composed of some basalt stones covered with symbols and glyphs undeciphered until now.

Most scholars think its origin is related to the natives that lived around until the 18th century, but there are also some people that defended an extraterrestrial origin. Most glyphs represents animals, fruits, humans, constellations (including the Milk Way), and other unrecognizable images.

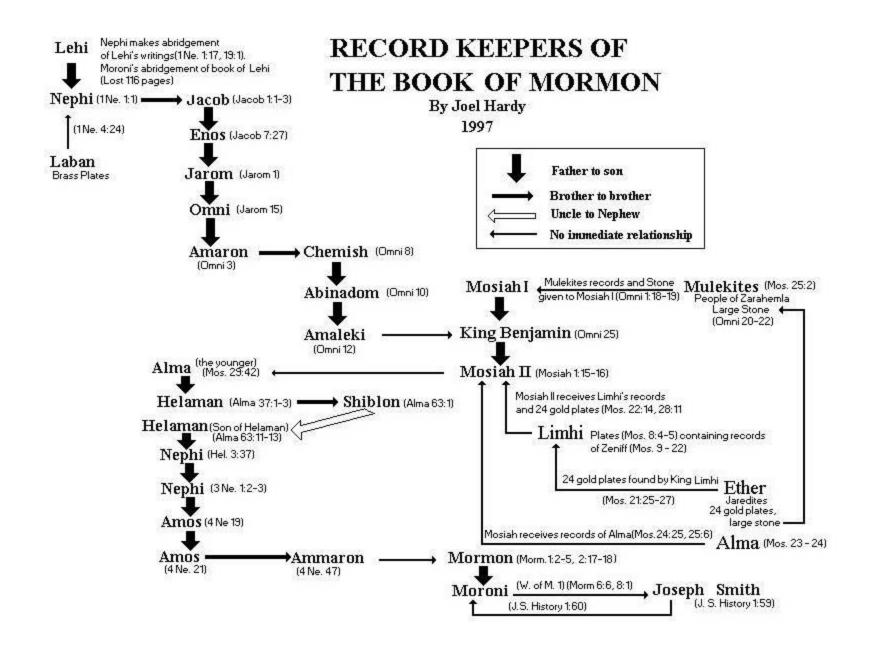


Not far away from Samaipata, one of the most important archeological monuments of pre-Columbian time in Bolivia can be found: El Fuerte (The Fortress). This archeological place has been declared Cultural Patrimony of Humanity by UNESCO. This mysterious place has been given many hypothetical explanations for its origins. It is supposed that El Fuerte is the work of the Amazonian pre-Incan 'Chané' culture, and later on was used as an advanced city by the Incas and finally by the Spanish colonists that turned El Fuerte into a fortress.

El Fuerte near Samaipata from aside village near el fuerte El Fuerte is the largest carved stone in the world. This archaeological monument reaches a height of 1.949 metres above sea level and is on the ridge of a hill of a sandy rock where ancient cultures sculptured figures but emphasized snakes and pumas, as well as waterways and wells, triangular and rectangular seats, vaulted niches, among other details.



BOOK DATES	NEPHITE HISTORIANS	CHIEF PRIESTS	BOOK DATES	NEPHITE HISTORIANS
91 BC	Alma II	Alma II (Mosiah 29-44)	91 BC	Alma II
83 BC		Nephihah (Alma 4:17, 20	83 BC	
73 BC	Helaman I		73 BC	Helaman I
67 BC		Pahoran I	67 BC	
56 BC	Shiblon		56 BC	Shiblon
53 BC	Helaman II		53 BC	Helaman II
52 BC		Pahoran II (Helaman 1:1,5)	52 BC	
51 BC		Pachumen (Helaman 2:1-3	51 BC	
50 BC		Helaman II (Helaman 2:1-2	50 BC	
39 BC	Nephi II	Nephi II (Helaman 3:37	39 BC	Nephi II
30 BC		Cezoram I (Helaman 5:1)	30 BC	
26 BC		Cezoram II (Helaman 6:15)	26 BC	
26 BC		Seezoram (Helaman 9:23)	26 BC	
23 BC – 1 Ad		Unnamed (maybe Lachoneus I)	23 BC – 1 Ad	
1 AD	Nephi III	Lachoneus I (3 Nephi 1:1)	1 AD	Nephi III
29-30 AD		Lachoneus II (3 Nephi 6:19)	29-30 AD	
	91 BC 83 BC 73 BC 67 BC 56 BC 53 BC 52 BC 51 BC 50 BC 39 BC 26 BC 26 BC 23 BC - 1 Ad 1 AD	91 BC Alma II 83 BC 73 BC Helaman I 67 BC 56 BC Shiblon 53 BC Helaman II 52 BC 51 BC 50 BC 39 BC Nephi II 30 BC 26 BC 23 BC – 1 Ad 1 AD Nephi III	91 BC Alma II (Mosiah 29-44) 83 BC Nephinah (Alma 4:17, 20) 73 BC Helaman I 67 BC Pahoran I 56 BC Shiblon 52 BC Pahoran II (Helaman 1:1,5) 51 BC Pachumen (Helaman 2:1-3 50 BC Helaman II 50 BC Pachumen (Helaman 2:1-3 50 BC Helaman II (Helaman 3:37 30 BC Cezoram I (Helaman 5:1) 26 BC Cezoram II (Helaman 6:15) 26 BC Cezoram II (Helaman 6:15) 26 BC Cezoram II (Helaman 9:23) 23 BC 1 Ad Unnamed (maybe Lachoneus I) 1 AD Nephi III Lachoneus II	91 BC Alma II (Mosiah 29-44) 91 BC 83 BC Nephihah (Alma 4:17, 20 83 BC 73 BC





THE ARMY OF HELAMAN ALMA 52-55

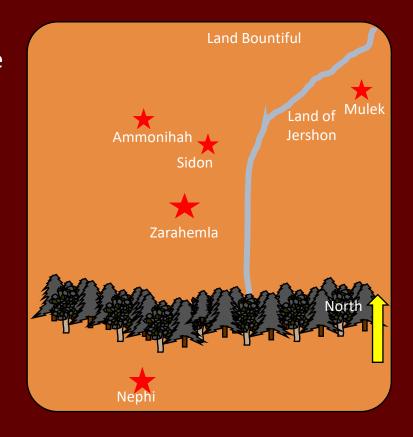






LAMANITES RETREAT

After Amalickiah's death the Lamanites saw that Teancum was ready 'to give them battle'



They abandoned their 'design' into marching north and retreated to the city of Mulek





The brother of Amalickiah was appointed king over the people



AMMORON

He was the brother of Amalickiah

He succeeded Amalickiah as general and king of the Lamanite armies that attacked the Nephites around 74 to 56 BC

He and his brother had been the cause of a great and lasting war between the Nephites and the Lamanites causing a great loss to many people

He was also the cause of much famine (Alma 62:35)

Teancum also 'stole' into Ammoron's tent, as he did his brother's and killed him with a javelin near his heart

The king's guards were alerted and had Teancum killed before he could escape





Who is the enemy?







You live in a day of marvelous technologies that give you easy access to a wide variety of media, including the Internet, mobile devices, video games, television, movies, music, books, and magazines.

The information and entertainment provided through these media can increase your ability to learn, communicate, and become a force for good in the world.

However, some information and entertainment can lead you away from righteous living. Choose wisely when using media because whatever you read, listen to, or look at has an effect on you. Select only media that uplifts you.

For the Strength of Youth



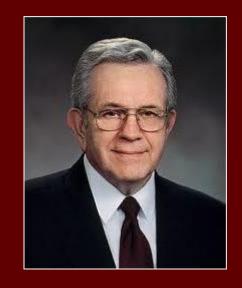
If we recognize and avoid circumstances in which the adversary may have an advantage over us, we can remain spiritually safe



"Youth today are being raised in enemy territory with a declining standard of morality.

But as a servant of the Lord, I promise that you will be protected and shielded from the attacks of the adversary *if* you will heed the promptings that come from the Holy Spirit."

Boyd K. Packer





SPIRITUALLY DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES



Why were the Nephites in danger?





What are some ways people place themselves in circumstances that are Spiritually dangerous?





TEANCUM REESTABLISHES THE LOST CITIES

27th Year of the Reign of the Judges

Teancum was commanded by Moroni to protect the south and west borders

> Moroni marched towards might assist Teancum

> the land Bountiful that he



Teancum was ordered to attack the city of Mulek and retake it if possible

Teancum waits for the aid of Moroni in the Land Bountiful



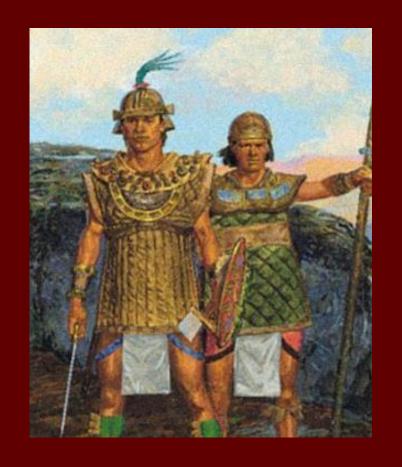


PRIOR TO BATTLE

28th Year of the Reign of the Judges

Moroni and Teancum and many of the chief captains held a council of war

They sent embassies to the city of Mulek to "flatter" them out of their strongholds





Jacob, a Zoramite, would not come out with his army to meet them



ЈАСОВ

He was a Zoramite

He was one of the leaders of the Lamanite's occupation force in the city of Mulek around 64 BC

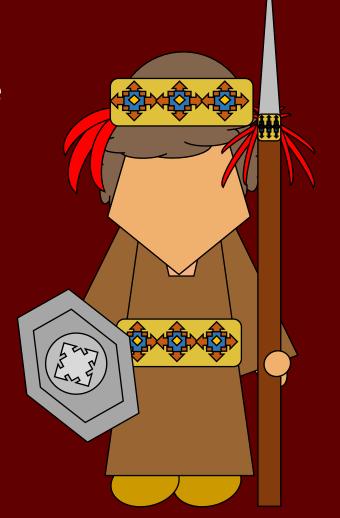
He refused to leave the city of Mulek causing Teancum's forces to pursue them

He and his army retreated to the land Bountiful where he was met with Lehi's army

Jacob's army was surrounded by Nephites on all sides

Moroni was wounded in this battle while Jacob was killed





What are things that would potentially divide these groups?

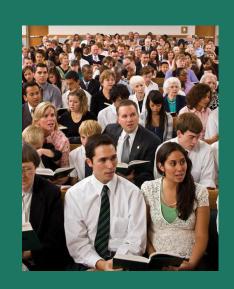
Priesthood Quorums Young Women Classes

Wards or Branches

Families











PRISONERS OF WAR

After Jacob's death the rest of the Lamanites were caught by Lehi and Moroni



Moroni asked them to surrender their weapons...

Some did and the others who wouldn't surrender were bound, and their weapons taken from them

They marched them to the land of Bountiful and put in prison

"And now the number of prisoners who were taken exceeded more than the number of those who had been slain, yea, more than those who had been slain on both sides."







Sources:

The Book of Mormon Who's Who by Ed J. Pinegar and Richard J. Allen pg. 21-22, 76-77, 102-103

Boyd K. Packer ("Counsel to Youth," Ensign or Liahona, Nov. 2011, 18).

Student Manual of Book of Mormon Religion 121-122 pg. 338

Joseph Smith (Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Joseph Smith [2007], 213, 214).



