

Chapter I<sup>st</sup>

The account of Alma who was the Son of Alma the First and Chief Judge over the people of Nephi & also the high Priest over the Church. an account of the Reign of the Judges and the wars & contentio(ns) among the people, And also an account of a war between the Nep-hites & the Lamanites According to the Record of Alma the first and Chief Judge ———

Now It came to pass that in the first Year of the Reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi from this time forward, King Mosiah having gone the way of all the Earth haveing warred a good war-fare walking uprightly before God leaveing no one to Reign in his stead nev-ertheless he established Laws & they were acknowledged before the people **170** therefore they were obleiged to abide by the Laws which he had made.

And It came to pass that in the first Year of the Reign of Alma in the Judgment seat, there was as man brought before him to be Judged a man which was large & was noted for his much strength

& he had gone about among the people Preaching to them that which he termed to be the word of God, bearing down against the *Church* declareing unto the people that every Priest & teacher had aught to become popular & they aught not to labar with their hands but that they had aught to be supported by the people

And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be sa-ved at the last day & that they need not fear nor tremble but that they might lift up their heads & rejoice for the Lord had created all men & had also redeemed all men & in the end all men should have Eter-nal Life,

And it came to pass that he did teach these things so much that many did believe on his words even so many that they began to su-pport him & give him Money

**THE BOOK OF ALMA [X\_ \_ \_ ]**  
**THE SON OF ALMA**

The account of Alma, who was the son of Alma, the first and chief judge over the people of Nephi, and also the high priest over the Church. An account of the reign of the judges, and the wars and contentions among the people. And also an account of a war between the Nep[-]hites and the Lamanites, according to the record of Alma, the first and chief judge.[ ]

**CHAPTER 1**

*Nehor teaches false doctrines, establishes a church, introduces priestcraft, and slays Gideon—Nehor is executed for his crimes—Priestcrafts and persecutions spread among the people—The priests support themselves, the people care for the poor, and the Church prospers. About 91–88 B.C.*

<sup>1</sup>Now it came to pass that in the first year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi, from this time forward, king Mosiah having gone the way of all the earth, hav[ ]ing warred a good war[-]fare, walking uprightly before God, leav[ ]ing none [X] to reign in his stead; nev[-]ertheless he had established laws, and they were acknowledged by the people; therefore they were obl[ ]iged to abide by the laws which he had made.

<sup>2</sup>And it came to pass that in the first year of the reign of Alma in the judgment-seat, there was a[ ] man brought before him to be judged, a man who was large, and was noted for his much strength.

<sup>3</sup>And he had gone about among the people, preaching to them that which he termed to be the word of God, bearing down against the church; declar[ ]ing unto the people that every priest and teacher [X] ought to become popular; and they ought not to labor with their hands, but that they [X] ought to be supported by the people.

<sup>4</sup>And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be sa[-]ved at the last day, and that they need not fear nor tremble, but that they might lift up their heads and rejoice; for the Lord had created all men, and had also redeemed all men; and, in the end, all men should have eter[-]nal life.

<sup>5</sup>And it came to pass that he did teach these things so much that many did believe on his words, even so many that they began to su[-]pport him and give him money.

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& he began to be lifted up in the pride of of his heart & to wear very Costly Apparel Yea & even began to establish a Church after the manner of his Preaching.

And it came to pass as he was going to preach to those who believeed on his word he met a man which belonged to the Church of God, Yea even one of their teachers & he began to contend with him sharply that he might lead away the people of the Ch-urch, but the man withstood him, admonishing him with the words of God.

Now the name of the man was Gideon & it was him that was an instrumen(t) in the hands of God in delivering the people of Limhi out of bondage

now because Gideon withstood him with the words of God, he was wroth with Gi-deon & drew his sword & began to smite him, now Gideon being stric-ken with many Years therefore he was not Able to withstand his blows therefore he was Slain by the sword

& the man who slew him was taken by the people of the Church & was brought before Alma to be Judged according to the crimes which he had committed,

& it came to pass that he stood before Alma & pled for himself with much boldness,

but Alma said unto him behold this is the first time that Priestcraft has been Introduced among this people & behold thou art not only guilty of Priestcraft but Endeavored to enforce it by the sword & were priestcraft to be enforced among this people it would prove their entire destruction,

and thou hast shed the blood of a Righteous man Yea a man which has done much good among this people & were we to spare thee his blood wou-ld come upon us, for Vengonce,

therefore thou art condemned to die acc **171** -ording to the Law which has been given us by Mosiah our last King & they have been acknowledged by this people therefore this people must abide by the Law,

& it came to pass that they took him, & his name was Nehor & they car-ried him upon the top of the hill Manti & there he was caused or rather did Acknowledge between the Heavens & the Earth that what he had taught to the people was contrary to the word of God & there he suffered an ignominious Death,

<sup>6</sup>**And** he began to be lifted up in the pride of **[X]** his heart, **and** to wear very **costly apparel, yea, and** even began to establish a **church** after the manner of his **preaching**.

<sup>7</sup>And it came to pass as he was going, to preach to those who believe**[\_]d** on his word, he met a man **who** belonged to the **church** of God, **yea, even** one of their teachers; **and** he began to contend with him sharply, that he might lead away the people of the **ch[-]urch**; but the man withstood him, admonishing him with the words of God.

<sup>8</sup>Now the name of the man was Gideon; **and** it was **he[-] who** was an instrument in the hands of God in delivering the people of Limhi out of bondage.

<sup>9</sup>Now, because Gideon withstood him with the words of God**[\_] he** was wroth with Gi**[-]deon, and** drew his sword **and** began to smite him. Now Gideon being stric**[-]ken** with many **years**, therefore he was not **able** to withstand his blows, therefore he was **slain** by the sword.

<sup>10</sup>**And** the man who slew him was taken by the people of the **church, and** was brought before Alma, to be **judged** according to the crimes which he had committed.

<sup>11</sup>**And** it came to pass that he stood before Alma **and** pled for himself with much boldness.

<sup>12</sup>But Alma said unto him: **Behold**, this is the first time that **priestcraft** has been **introduced** among this people. **And** behold, thou art not only guilty of **priestcraft**, but **hast endeavored** to enforce it by the sword; **and** were priestcraft to be enforced among this people it would prove their entire destruction.

<sup>13</sup>**And** thou hast shed the blood of a **righteous man, yea, a man who** has done much good among this people; **and** were we to spare thee his blood wou**[-]ld** come upon us**[\_] for vengeance**.

<sup>14</sup>Therefore thou art condemned to die, acc**[-]rding** to the **law** which has been given us by Mosiah, our last **king; and it has[-]** been acknowledged by this people; therefore this people must abide by the **law**.

<sup>15</sup>**And** it came to pass that they took him; **and** his name was Nehor; **and** they car**[-]ried** him upon the top of the hill Manti, **and** there he was caused, or rather did **acknowledge**, between the **heavens and** the **earth**, that what he had taught to the people was contrary to the word of God; **and** there he suffered an ignominious **death**.

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Nevertheless this did not put an end to the spreading of Priestcraft through the land for there *was* many wh<sup>o</sup>ch loved the vain things of the world & they went forth preaching false Doctrines & this they did for the sake of riches & honor

Nevertheless they *durst* not lie if it were known for fear of the Law, for Lyars were punished, therefore they pretended to preach according to their belief & ~~they~~ now the Law could have no power on any man for their beli-ef

& they durst not steal for fear of the Law for such were punished neither durst they Rob nor murder for he that Murdereth was punished unto death,

But it came to pass that whosoever did not belong to the Church of God began to persecute those that did belong to the chu-rch of God & had taken upon them the name of Christ

yea they did per-secute them & afflict them with all manner of words & this because of their humility because they were not proud in their own eyes & because they did impart the word of God one with another without Money & without price.

Now there was a strict Law among the people of the church that there should not any man belonging to the Church arise & persecute those that did not belong to the Church & that there should be no persecution among them-selves,

Nevertheless there were many among them who began to be proud And began to contend warmly with their adversaries even unto blows Yea they would smite one another with their fists,

now this was in the second Year of the Reign of Alma & it was a cause of much affliction to the Church Yea it was the cause of much trial with the Church

for the hearts of many were hardened & their names were blotted out that they were remembered no more among the people of God, and also many withdrew themselves from among them,

now this was a great trial to those that did stand fast in the ~~in~~ the faith, Nevertheless the were *stedfast* & immovable in keeping the commandments of God & they bore with patience the persecution which was heaped upon them

<sup>16</sup>Never[-]theless, this did not put an end to the spreading of **priestcraft** through the land; for there **were** many **who** loved the vain things of the world, **and** they went forth preaching false **doctrines**; **and** this they did for the sake of riches **and** honor.

<sup>17</sup>Nevertheless, they durst not lie, if it were known, for fear of the **law**, for **liars** were punished; therefore they pretended to preach according to their belief; **and** **[X]** now the **law** could have no power on any man for **his** beli[-]ef.

<sup>18</sup>**And** they durst not steal, for fear of the **law**, for such were punished; neither durst they **rob**, nor murder, for he that **murdered**[\_] was punished unto death.

<sup>19</sup>But it came to pass that whosoever did not belong to the **church** of God began to persecute those that did belong to the chu[-]rch of God, **and** had taken upon them the name of Christ.

<sup>20</sup>**Yea**, they did per[-]secute them, **and** afflict them with all manner of words, **and** this because of their humility; because they were not proud in their own eyes, **and** because they did impart the word of God, one with another, without **money** **and** without price.

<sup>21</sup>Now there was a strict **law** among the people of the church, that there should not any man, belonging to the **church**, arise **and** persecute those that did not belong to the **church**, **and** that there should be no persecution among them[-]selves.

<sup>22</sup>Never**theless**, there were many among them who began to be proud, **and** began to contend warmly with their adversaries, even unto blows; **yea**, they would smite one another with their fists.

<sup>23</sup>Now this was in the second **year** of the **reign** of Alma, **and** it was a cause of much affliction to the **church**; **yea**, it was the cause of much trial with the **church**.

<sup>24</sup>**F**or the hearts of many were hardened, **and** their names were blotted out, that they were remembered no more among the people of God. **And** also many withdrew themselves from among them.

<sup>25</sup>Now this was a great trial to those that did stand fast in the **[X\_X]** faith; nevertheless, they were **steadfast** **and** immov[\_]able in keeping the commandments of God, **and** they bore with patience the persecution which was heaped upon them.

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& when the Priests left their labour to impart the word of God unto the people the people also left their labours to hear the word of God & when the priest had imparted unto them the word of God they all returned again diligently unto their labors & the priest not esteeming himself above **172** his hearers for the preacher was no better than the hearer, neither was the Teacher Any better than the learner & thus they were all Equal, & they did all labour every man according to his strength

& they did impart of their substance every man according to that which he had to the poor & the needy & the sick & the Afflicted & they did not wear Costly apparel yet they were neat & comely

And thus they did establish the affairs of the Church & thus they began to have continual peace again. notwithstanding all their persecutions,

& now because of the s(te)adiness of the Church they began to exceeding rich having Abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need, Abundance of Flocks & herds & fatlings of every kind & also abundance of Grain & of gold & of Silver & of precious things & abundance Silk & fine twined linen & all manner of good homely cloth,

& thus in their prosperous circumstances they did not Send away which was naked that was hungry or that was athirst or that was sick or that had not been nourished & they did not set their hearts upon riches, therefore they were liberal to all both old & young both bond & free both Male & female whether out of the Church or in the Church having no respects to persons, as to those who stood in need

and thus they did prosper & become far more wealthy than those who did not belong to their Church,

for those who did not belong to their Church did Indulge themselves in sorceries & in Idoltry or Idleness & in babblings and in envyings & strife And wearing costly apparel being lifted up in the pride of their own eyes persecuting lying thieving robing committing whoredoms & murdering & all mnnor of wickedness. Nevertheless the Law was put in force upon all those who did transgress It in as much as it were possible,

<sup>26</sup>And when the **p**riests left their labo[ ]r to impart the word of God unto the people, the people also left their labo[ ]rs to hear the word of God. **And** when the priest had imparted unto them the word of God they all returned again diligently unto their labors; **and** the priest, not esteeming himself above his hearers, for the preacher was no better than the hearer, neither was the **t**eacher any better than the learner; **and** thus they were all **e**qual. **and** they did all labo[ ]r, every man according to his strength.

<sup>27</sup>And they did impart of their substance, every man according to that which he had, to the poor, **and** the needy, **and** the sick, **and** the afflicted; **and** they did not wear **c**ostly apparel, yet they were neat **and** comely.

<sup>28</sup>And thus they did establish the affairs of the **c**hurch; **and** thus they began to have continual peace again, notwithstanding all their persecutions.

<sup>29</sup>And now, because of the **s**te[ ]adiness of the **c**hurch they began to **b**e exceedingly rich, having **a**bundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need[ ]—**a**n abundance[ ] of **f**locks **and** herds, **and** fatlings of every kind, **and** also abundance of **g**rain, **and** of gold, **and** of **s**ilver, **and** of precious things, **and** abundance of **s**ilk **and** fine-twined linen, **and** all manner of good homely cloth.

<sup>30</sup>And thus, in their prosperous circumstances, they did not **s**end away **a**ny **w**ho **w**ere naked, **or** that **w**ere hungry, or that **w**ere athirst, or that **w**ere sick, or that had not been nourished; **and** they did not set their hearts upon riches; therefore they were liberal to all, both old **and** young, both bond **and** free, both **m**ale **and** female, whether out of the **c**hurch or in the **c**hurch, having no respect[ ] to persons[ ] as to those who stood in need.

<sup>31</sup>And thus they did prosper **and** become far more wealthy than those who did not belong to their **c**hurch.

<sup>32</sup>For those who did not belong to their **c**hurch did **i**ndulge themselves in sorceries, **and** in **i**dolatry or **i**dleness, **and** in **b**abblings, and in **e**nyings **and** strife; **[X]** wearing costly apparel; being lifted up in the pride of their own eyes; persecuting, lying, thieving, **r**obbing, **c**ommitting whoredoms, **and** murdering, **and** all **m**anner of wickedness; **n**evertheless, the **l**aw was put in force upon all those who did transgress **i**t, in [ ]as [ ]much as it **w**as possible.

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And it came to pass that by ~~thus~~ thus exercising the Law upon them every man suffering according to that whic(h) he had done they became more still & durst not commit any wickedness if it were Known therefore there was much Peace among the people of Nephi until the fifth year of the Reign of the Judges,

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<sup>33</sup>And it came to pass that by [X] thus exercising the law upon them, every man suffering according to that which he had done, they became more still, and durst not commit any wickedness if it were known; therefore, there was much peace among the people of Nephi until the fifth year of the reign of the judges.