

Helaman 6

¹& it came to pass that when the sixty & second year
of the reign of the Judges had ended
all these things had happened
& the Lamanites had become the more part of them a righteous people
insomuch that their righteousness did excede that of the Nephites
because of their firmness & their stediness in the faith

²for behold there were many of the Nephites
which had become hardoned & impenitant & grossly wicked
insomuch that they did reject the word of God
& all the preaching & the prophesying which did come among them
³nevertheless the people of the church did have great joy
because of the conversion of the Lamanites
yea because of the church of God which had been established among them
& they did fellowship one with an other
& did rejoice one with another & did have great joy

⁴& it came to pass that
many of the Lamanites did come down into the land of Zarahemla
& did declare unto the people of the Nephites the manner of their conversion
& did exhort them to faith & repentance

⁵yea & many did preach with excding great power & authority
unto the bringing down many of them into the debths of humility
to be the humble followers of God & of the Lamb

⁶& it came to pass that many of the Lamanites did go into the land Northward
& also Nephi & Lehi went into the land Northward to preach unto the people
& thus ended the sixty & third year

⁷& behold there was peace in all the land
insomuch that the Nephites did go into whatsoever part of the land they would
whether among the Nephites or the Lamanites

⁸& it came to pass that the Lamanites did also go whethersoever they would
whether it were among the Lamanites or ^{among} the Nephites
& thus they did have free intercorse one with another
for to buy & to sell & to get gain according to their desire

⁹& it came to pass that they became exceding rich
both the Lamanites & the Nephites
& they did have an excding plenty of gold & of silver
& of all manner of precious petals
both in the land South & in the ~~land~~ land North

¹⁰now the land South was called Lehi
& the land North was called Mulek
which was after the Son of Zedekiah
for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land North
& Lehi into the land south

¹¹ & behold there was all manner of gold in both these lands
& of Silver & of precious oar of every kind
& there were also curious workmen
which did work all kinds of oar & did refine it
& thus they did become rich

¹² they did raise grain in abundance both in the North & in the South
& they did flourish excedingly both in the north & in the South
& they did multiply & wax exceding strong in the land
& they did raise many flocks & heards yea many fatlings

¹³ behold their women did toil & spin
& did make all manner of cloth
of fine twined linnen & cloth of every kind
to cloath their nakedness
& thus the sixty & ~~forth~~ fourth year did pass away in peace
¹⁴ & in the sixty & fifth year they did also have great joy ^{& peace}
y^{yea} ~~ea~~ much preaching &
many prophecies concerning that which was to come
& thus passed away the sixty & fifth year

¹⁵ & it came to pass that in the sixty & sixth year of the reign of the Judges
behold Cezoram was murdered by an unknown hand
as he sat upon the Judgmentseat
& it came to pass that in the same year
that his Son ^{which} had been appointed by the people in his stead
was also murdered
& thus ended the sixty & sixth year

¹⁶ & in the commencement of the sixty & seventh year
the people began to grow exceding wicked again
¹⁷ for behold the Lord had blessed them so long with the riches of the world
that they had not been stired up to anger to wars ^{nor} & to bloodsheds
therefore they began to set their hearts upon their riches
yea they began to seek to get gain
that they might be lifted up one above another
therefore they began to commit ~~see~~ ^{secret} ~~re~~ murders & to rob & to plunder
that they might get gain

¹⁸ & now behold those murderers & plunderers were a band
which had been formed by Kishkumen & Gadianton

& now it had come to pass that
there were many even among the Nephites of Gadiantons band
but behold they were more numerous
among the more wicked part of the Lamanites
& they were called Gadiantons ~~ro~~ robbers & murderers
¹⁹ & it was they which did murder the Chief Judge Cezoram & his Son
while in the Judgmentseat
& behold they were not found

²⁰& now it came to pass that
when the Lamanites found that there were robbers among them
they were exceding sorrowful
& they did use every means whatsoever was in their power
to destroy them off the face of the earth
²¹but behold Satan did stir up the hearts of the more parts of the Nephites
insomuch that they did unites with those bands of robbers
& did enter into their covenants & their oaths
that they would protect & preserve one another
in whatsoever difficult circumstances they should be placed in
that they should not suffer for their murders
& their plunderings & their stealings
²²& it came to pass that they did have their signs
yea their secret signs & their secret words
& this that they might ~~distu~~^{distinguish} ~~in~~ a brother
who had entered into the covenant
that whatsoever wickedness his brother should do
he should not be injured by his brother
nor ^{by} those who did belong to his band who had taken this covenant
²³& thus they might murder & plunder & steal
& commit horedoms & all manner of wickedness
conterary to the laws of their country & also the laws of their God
²⁴& whosoever of those which belonged to their band
should reveal unto the world of their wickedness & their abominations
should be tried not according to the laws of their country
but according to the laws of their wickedness
which had been given by Gadianton & Kishkumen

²⁵now behold it is these secret oaths & covenants
which Alma commonded his Son should not go forth unto the world
lest they should be a means of bringing down the people unto destruction
²⁶now behold those ~~se~~^{secret} ~~ered~~ oaths & covenants did not come forth unto Gadianton
from the records which were delivered unto Helaman
but behold they were put into the heart of Gadianton
by that same being who did entice our first parents
to partake of the ~~for~~bidden fruit
²⁷yea that same being who did plot with Cain
that if he would murder his brother Abel
it should not be known unto the world
& he did plot with Cain & his followers from that time forth
²⁸& also it is that same being who put it into the hearts of the people
to build a Tower sufficiently high that they might get to Heaven
& it was that same being
which lead on the people which came from that Tower into this land
which spread the works of darkness & abominations
over all the face of the land
until he draged the people down
to an entire destruction & to an everlasting Hell

²⁹yea it is that same being who put it into the heart of Gadianton
to still carry on the work of darkness & of secret murder
& he hath brought it forth from the beginning of man
even down to this time

³⁰& behold it is he which is the author of all sin
& behold he doth carry on his works of darkness & secret murder
& doth hand down their plots & their oaths
& their covenants & their plans of awful wickedness
from generation to generation
according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men

³¹& now behold he had got great hold upon the hearts of the Nephites
yea insomuch that they had become exceeding wicked
yea the more part of them had turned out of the way of righteousness
& did trample under their feet the commandments of God
& did turn unto their own ways

& did build up unto themselves Idols of ^{their} gold & ~~of~~ ^{their} Silver

³²& it came to pass that all these iniquities did come unto them
in the space of not many years
insomuch that ~~the~~ ^a more part of it had come unto them
in the sixty & seventh year of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi

³³& they did grow in their iniquities in the sixty & eighth year also
to the great sorrow & lamentation of the righteous

³⁴& thus we see that the Nephites did begin to dwindle in unbelief
& grow in wickedness & abominations
while the Lamanites began to grow exceedingly in the knowledge of their God
yea they did begin to keep his statutes & commandments
& to walk in truth & uprightness before him

³⁵& thus we see that the spirit of the Lord began to withdraw from the Nephites
because of the wickedness & the hardness of their hearts

³⁶& thus we see that the Lord began to pour out his spirit upon the Lamanites
because of their easiness & willingness to believe in his words

³⁷& it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gadianton
& they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them
insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed
from among the Lamanites

³⁸& it came to pass on the other hand
that the Nephites did build them up & support them
beginning at the more wicked part of them
until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites
& had ~~sud~~ ^{seduced} ~~used~~ the more part of the righteous
until they had come down to believe in their works
& partake of their spoils

& to join with them in their secret murders & combinations

³⁹& thus they did obtain the sole management of the government
insomuch that they did trample under their feet & smite & rend
& turn their backs upon the poor & the meek & the humble followers of God

⁴⁰& thus we see that they were in an awful state
& ripening for an everlasting destruction
⁴¹& it came to pass that thus ended the sixty & eighth year
of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi——