

Mosiah 9

Chapter

The record of Zeniff

An account of his *People* from the time they left the land of Zarahemla
untill the time that they were delivered out of the hands of the Lamanites—

¹I Zeniff having taught in all the language of the Nephites
& having had a knowledge of the land of Nephi
or of the land of our fathers first inheritance
& I having been sent as a spie among the Lamanites
that I might spie out their forces
that our army might come upon them & destroy them
but when I saw that which was good among them
I was desireous that they should not be destroid
²therefore I contended with my Brethren in the wilderness
for I would that our ruler should make a treaty with them
but he being an austere & a bloodthirsty man commanded that I should be slain
but I was rescued by the shedding of much blood
for father *faaght* against father & brother against brother
untill the greatest number of our army was ~~slain~~ destroid in the wilderness
& we returned those of us that were spared to the land of Zarahemla
to that tale to their wives & their children

³& yet I being overzealous to inherit the land of our fathers ~~first~~
collected as many as were desireous to go up to ^{possess} the land
& started again on our journey into the wilderness to go up to the land
but we were smitten with famine & sore affliction
for we were slow to remember the Lord our God
⁴nevertheless after many days wandering in the wilderness
we pitched our tents in the place ^{where} ~~ea~~ our brethren were slain
which was near to the land of our fathers

⁵& it came to pass that
I went again with four of my men into the city in unto the king
that I might know of the disposition of the king
& that I might know if I might go in with my People
& possess the land in peace
⁶& I went in unto the king & he covenanted with me
that I might possess the land of LehiNephi & the land of Shilom
⁷& he also commanded that his People should depart out of the land
& I & my People went into the land that we might possess it
⁸& we began to build buildings & to repair the walls of the City
yea even the walls of the City of LihiNephi & the City of Shilom

⁹& we began to till the ground
yea even with all manner of seeds
with seeds of corn & of wheat & of barley
& with neas & with Sheum
& with seeds of all manner of fruits
& we did begin to multiply & prosper in the land

¹⁰now [♠]it was the cunning & the craftiness of King Laman
to bring my People into bondage
that he yielded up the land that we might possess it

¹¹therefore it came to pass that
after we had dwelt in the land for the space of twelve years
that king Laman began to grow uneasy
lest by any means my People should wax strong in the land
& that they could not overpower [♠]them^s & bring them into bondage

¹²now they were ~~& an~~ lazy & an Idoletrous People
therefore they were desireous to bring us into bondage
that they might glut themselves with the labours of our hands
yea that they might feast themselves upon the flocks of our fields

¹³therefore it came to pass that king Laman began to stir up his People
that they should contend with my People
therefore there began to be wars & contentions in the land

¹⁴for in the thirteenth year of my reign
in the land of Nephi away on the South of the land of Shilom
when my People were watering & feeding their flocks & tilling their lands
a numerous host of Lamanites came upon them & began to slay them
& to take of their flocks & the corn of their fields

¹⁵yea & it came to pass that
they fled all that were not overtaken even into the City of Nephi
& did call upon me for protection

¹⁶& it came to pass that I did arm them with bows & with arrows
with swords & with simetres & with clubs & with slings
& with all manner of weopons ~~of wa~~^{which} ~~†~~ we could invent
& I & my People did go forth against the Lamanites to battle
¹⁷yea in the strength of the Lord did we go forth to battle against the Lamanites
for I & my People did cry mightily to the Lord
that he would deliver us out of the hands of our enemies
for we were awakened to a remembrance of the deliverance of our fathers

¹⁸& God did hear our cries & did answer our prayers
& we did go forth in his might
yea we did go forth against the Lamanites
& in one day & a night we did slay three thousand & forty three
we did slay them even untill we had driven them out of our land

¹⁹& I myself with mine own hands did help bury their dead
& behold to our great sorrow & lamentation
two hundred & seventy nine of our brethren were slain