

Mosiah 23

Chapter

An account of Alma & the people of the Lord
which was driven into the wilderness by the people of king Noah——

¹Now Alma having been warned of the Lord
that the armies of king Noah would come upon them
& had made it known to his people
therefore they gathered together their flocks & ~~too~~ took of their grain
& departed into the wilderness before the armies of king Noah
²& the Lord did strengthen them
that the people of king Noah could not overtake them to destroy them
³& it came to pass that
they fled eight days journey into the wilderness
⁴& they came to a land
yea even a verry beautiful & pleasant land
a land of pure water
⁵& it came to pass that they pitched their tents
& began to till the ground & began to build buildings .&C.
yea they were industrious & did labour excedingly

⁶& it came to pass that the people were desireous
that Alma should be their king
for he was beloved by his people
⁷but he saith unto them
behold it is not expediant that we should have a king
for thus saith the Lord
ye shall not esteem one flesh above another
or one man shall not think himself above another
therefore I say unto you
it is not expediant that ye should have a king
⁸nevertheless if it were possible
that ye could always have a just man to be your kings
it would be well for you to have a king
⁹but remember the iniquity of king Noah & his priests
& I myself was caught in a snare
& did many things which was abominable in the sight of ~~God~~ the Lord
which caused me sore repentance
¹⁰nevertheless after much tribulation the Lord did hear my cries
& did answer my prayers
& hath made me an instrument in his hands
in bringing so many of you to a knowledge of his truth
¹¹nevertheless in this I do not glory
for I am unworthy to glory of myself

¹²& now I say unto you
as you have been ~~opposed~~ oppressed by king Noah
& have been in bondage to him & his priests
& have been brought into iniquity by them
therefore ye were bound with the bands of iniquity
¹³& now as ye have been delivered by the power of God out of these bonds
yea out of the hands of king Noah & his people
& also from the bonds of iniquity
even so I desire that ye should stand fast in this liberty
wherewith ye have been made free
& that ye trust no man to be a king over you
¹⁴& also trusting no one to be your teachers nor your ministers
except he be a man of God
walking in his ways & keeping his commandments
¹⁵thus did Alma teach his people
that every man should love his neighbor as himself
that there should be no contention among them

¹⁶& now Alma was their high Priest
he being the founder of their church
¹⁷& it came to pass that
none received authority to preach or to teach
except it were by him from God
therefore he consecrated all their priests & all their teachers
& none were consecrated except it were just men
¹⁸therefore they did watch over their people
& did nourish them with things pertaining to righteousness

¹⁹& it came to pass that
they began to prosper exceedingly in the land
& they called the land Helaman
²⁰& it came to pass that
they did multiply & prosper exceedingly ~~exceedingly~~ in the land of Helaman
& they built a city which they called the city of Helaman
²¹nevertheless the Lord seeth fit to chasten his people
yea he tryeth their patience & their faith
²²nevertheless whosoever patteth his trust in him
the same shall be lifted up at the last day
yea & thus it was with this people
²³for behold I will shew unto you
that they were brought into bondage
& none could deliver them but the Lord their God
yea even the God of Abraham & of Isaac & of Jacob
²⁴& it came to pass that he did deliver them
& he did shew forth his mighty power unto them
& great was their rejoyceings

²⁵for behold it came to pass that
while they were in the land of Helaman
yea in the city of Helaman
while tilling the land round about
behold an army of the Lamanites were in the borders of the land
²⁶now it came to pass that the Brethren of Alma fled from their fields
& gathered themselves together into the city of Helaman
& they were much frightened because of the appearance of the Lamanites
²⁷but Alma went forth & stood among them
& exhorted them that they should not be frightened
but that they should remember the Lord their \diamond God
& he would deliver them
²⁸therefore they hushed their fears
& began to cry unto the Lord
that he would soften the hearts of the Lamanites
that they would spare them & their wives & children
²⁹& it came to pass that the Lord did soften the hearts of the Lamanites
& Alma & his brethren went forth
& delivered themselves up into their hands
& the Lamanites took possession of the Land of Helaman

³⁰now the armies of the Lamanites
which had followed after the people of king Limhi
had been lost in the wilderness for many days
³¹& behold they had found those priests of king Noah
in a place which they called Amulon
& they had began to possess the land of Amulon
& had began to till the ground
³²now the name of the leader of those priests was Amulon
³³& it came to pass that Amulon did plead with the Lamanites
& he also sent forth their wives
which was the daughters of the Lamanites
to plead with their brethren
that they should not destroy their husbands
³⁴& it came to pass that
the Lamanites had compassion on Amulon & his brethren
& did not destroy them because of their wives
³⁵& Amulon & his brethren did join ~~the~~ Lamanites
& they were traveling in the wilderness in search of the land of Nephi
when they discovered the land of Helaman
which was possessed by Alma & his brethren

³⁶& it came to pass that the Lamanites promised unto Alma & his brethren
that if they would shew them the way which led to the land of Nephi
that they would grant unto them their lives & their liberty
³⁷but it came to pass that
after Alma had shewn them the way that lead to the land of Nephi
the Lamanites would not keep their promise
but they set guards round about the land of Helaman over Alma & his brethren

³⁸& the remainder of them went to the land of Nephi
& a part of them returned to the land of Helaman
& also brought with them the wives & the children of the guards
which had been left in the land

³⁹& the king of the Lamanites had granted unto Amulon
that he should be a king & a ruler over his people
which was in the land of Helaman
nevertheless he should have no power to do any thing
conterary to the will of the king of the Lamanites