

BOOK of MORMON COMPARATIVE
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Chapter 1st

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 & contentions^{ns} among the people, And also an account of a war between the Nephites & 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 having warred a good warfare walking uprightly before God leaving no one to Reign in his stead nevertheless he established Laws & they were acknowledged before the people **170** therefore they were obliged 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 a 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 ~~Enemy~~ declaring unto the people that every Priest & teacher had ought to become popular & they ought not to labor with their own hands but that they had ought to be supported by the people

And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be saved 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 Eternal 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 support 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 Nephites 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.

¹Now 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 warfare, walking uprightly before God, leav[]ing none [X] to reign in his stead; nevertheless he had established laws, and they were acknowledged by the people; therefore they were oblig[]ed to abide by the laws which he had made.

²And 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.

³And 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 [X] hands, but that they [X] ought to be supported by the people.

⁴And he also testified unto the people that all mankind should be saved 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 eternal life.

⁵And 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 support 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 Church, 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 Gideon & drew his sword & began to smite him, now Gideon being stricken 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 crime 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 would 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,

⁶**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 **p**reaching.

⁷And 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 **church**; but the man withstood him, admonishing him with the words of God.

⁸Now 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.

⁹Now, because Gideon withstood him with the words of God**[]** he was wroth with Gideon, **and** drew his sword **and** began to smite him. Now Gideon being stricken with many **y**ears, therefore he was not **a**ble to withstand his blows, therefore he was **slain** by the sword.

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

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

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

¹³**And** thou hast shed the blood of a **r**ighteous man, **yea,** a man **who** has done much good among this people; **and** were we to spare thee his blood would come upon us**[]** for **v**engeance.

¹⁴**T**herefore thou art condemned to die, according to the **l**aw which has been given us by Mosiah, our last **k**ing; **and it has[]** been acknowledged by this people; therefore this people must abide by the **l**aw.

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& it came to pass that they took him, & his name was Nehor & they carried 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,

Nevertheless this did not put an end to the spreading of Priestcraft through the land for there was many wh^och 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 belief

& 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 church of God & had taken upon them the name of Christ

yea they did persecute 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 themselves,

Neverless 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

¹⁵And it came to pass that they took him; and his name was Nehor; and they carried 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.

¹⁶Nevertheless, 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.

¹⁷Nevertheless, 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 belief.

¹⁸And 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.

¹⁹But it came to pass that whosoever did not belong to the church of God began to persecute those that did belong to the church of God, and had taken upon them the name of Christ.

²⁰Yea, they did persecute 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.

²¹Now 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 themselves.

²²Nevertheless, 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.

²³Now 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.

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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

& 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 this 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^headiness 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,

²⁴**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.

²⁵**N**ow this was a great trial to those that did stand fast in the **[X_X]** faith; **nevertheless, they** were **steadfast and** immovable in keeping the commandments of God, **and** they bore with patience the persecution which was heaped upon them.

²⁶**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.

²⁷**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 **costly** apparel, yet they were neat **and** comely.

²⁸**And thus** they did establish the affairs of the **church; and** thus they began to have continual peace again, notwithstanding all their persecutions.

²⁹**And** now, because of the **ste[]**adiness of the **church** they began to **be** exceeding**ly** rich, having **abundance** of all things whatsoever they stood in need**[]**—**an abundance[]** of **flocks and** herds, **and** fatlings of every kind, **and** also abundance of **grain, and** of gold, **and** of **silver, and** of precious things, **and** abundance **of silk and** fine-twined linen, **and** all manner of good homely cloth.

³⁰**And thus,** in their prosperous circumstances, they did not **send away any who were** naked, **or** that **were** hungry, or that **were** athirst, or that **were** 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 **male and** female, whether out of the **church** or in the **church**, having no respect**[]** to persons**[]** as to those who stood in need.

³¹**And thus** they did prosper **and** become far more wealthy than those who did not belong to their **church.**

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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 mnnr of wickedness. Nevertheless the Law was put in force upon all those who did transgress It in as much as it were possible,

And it came to pass that by ~~thus~~ thus exercising the Law upon them every man suffering according to that which^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,

³²For those who did not belong to their church did indulge themselves in sorceries, and in idolatry or idleness, and in babblings, and in envyings and strife; [X] wearing costly apparel; being lifted up in the pride of their own eyes; persecuting, lying, thieving, robbing, committing whoredoms, and murdering, and all manner of wickedness; nevertheless, the law was put in force upon all those who did transgress it, in [] as [] much as it was possible.

³³And 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.