

BOOK of MORMON COMPARATIVE
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CHAPTER 31

*Alma heads a mission to reclaim the apostate
Zoramites—The Zoramites deny Christ, believe in a
false concept of election, and worship with set
prayers—The missionaries are filled with the Holy
Spirit—Their afflictions are swallowed up in the
joy of Christ. About 74 B.C.*

now it came to pass that after the end of Korihor Alma haveing received tidings that the Zoramites were perverting the ways of the Lord & that Zoram which was their leader was laeding the hearts of the People to bow down to Idumb Idols. &c. his heart again began to sicken because of the iniquity of the People

for it was the cause of great sorrow to Alma to know of iniquity among his People therefore his heart was exceeding sorrowful because of the separation of the Zoramites from the Nephites

now the Zoramites had gathered themselves together in a land which they called Antionum which was east of the lard of Zarahemla which lay nearly bordering upon the sea shore which was South of the land Jershon which also bordered upon the wilderness South which wilderness was full of the Lamanites

now the Nephites greatly feared that feared that the Zoramites would enter into a cora'spondance with the Lamanites & that it would be the means of a graate^r loss on the part of the Nephites

& now as the preaching of the word had had a great tendency to lead the People to do that which was just yea it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the People

ording to the Zoramites &c.

thōn the sword or any thing else which had bapened unto them thereore Alma thought it was expediant that they should try the wirue of the word of God

therefore he took Ammon & Aaron & Omner & Himni he did leave in the Church in Zarahemla but the former three he took with him & also Amulek & Zeezrom which were at Melek & he also took two of his Sons

¹Now it came to pass that after the end of Korihor, Alma hav[]ing received tidings that the Zoramites were perverting the ways of the Lord, and that Zoram, who was their leader, was leading the hearts of the people to bow down to [] dumb idols, [X _ _] his heart again began to sicken because of the iniquity of the people.

²For it was the cause of great sorrow to Alma to know of iniquity among his people; therefore his heart was exceedingly sorrowful because of the separation of the Zoramites from the Nephites.

³Now the Zoramites had gathered themselves together in a land which they called Antionum, which was east of the land of Zarahemla, which lay nearly bordering upon the sea[]shore, which was south of the land of Jershon, which also bordered upon the wilderness south, which wilderness was full of the Lamanites.

⁴Now the Nephites greatly [X_X] feared that the Zoramites would enter into a correspondence with the Lamanites, and that it would be the means of [] great[] loss on the part of the Nephites.

⁵And now, as the preaching of the word had [X] a great tendency to lead the people to do that which was just—yea, it had had more powerful effect upon the minds of the people

[_ _ _ _ X_X_X_X_] than the sword, or any[]thing else, which had happened unto them—therefore Alma thought it was expedient that they should try the virtue of the word of God.

⁶Therefore he took Ammon, and Aaron, and Omner; and Himni he did leave in the church in Zarahemla; but the former three he took with him, and also Amulek and Zeezrom, who were at Melek; and he also took two of his sons.

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now the eldest of his Sons he tok no^t with him & his name **250** was Helaman but the^e names of those which he took with him were Shiblon & Corianton & these are the names of those which went with him among the Zoramites to preach unto them the word

now the Zoramites were desenters from the Nephites therefore they had the word of God Preached unto them

but they had fell into great errors for they would not observe to keep the commandments & his statutes according to the law of Moses

neither would they observe the performances of the church to continue in prayer & suplication to God daily that they might not enter into temptation

yea in fine they did pervert the ways of the Lord in ver^y many instances therefore for this cause Alma & his Brethren went into the land to preach the word unto them

now when they had came into the land behold to there astonisheent they found that the Zoramites had built Synagrgues & that they did gather themselves together on one day of the week which day they did call the day of the Lord & they did worship after a manner which Alma & his Brerhren had never beheld

for they had a place build up in the senter of their Synagogue a place of standing which was high above the head & the top threeroef would only admit one person

therefore whosoever desired to worship must go forth & stand upon the top of thereof && streach forth the his hands towards the Heavens & cry with a loud voice saying

holy holy God we believe that thou art God & we believe that thou art holy & that thou wast a spirit & that thou art a Spirit & that thou thou wilt be a spirit forever

holy God we believe that hou hast seperated us from our Brethren & we do not believe in the tradition of our Brethren which was handed down to them by the chiddishness of their fathers^{father}s but we believe that thou hast elected us to be thy holy Children & also thou hast made it k known unto us that the there shall be no Christ

⁷Now the eldest of his sons he took not with him, and his name was Helaman; but the^[] names of those whom he took with him were Shiblon and Corianton; and these are the names of those who went with him among the Zoramites, to preach unto them the word.

⁸Now the Zoramites were dissenters from the Nephites; therefore they had had the word of God preached unto them.

⁹But they had fallen into great errors, for they would not observe to keep the commandments of God, and his statutes, according to the law of Moses.

¹⁰Neither would they observe the performances of the church, to continue in prayer and supplication to God daily, that they might not enter into temptation.

¹¹Yea, in fine, they did pervert the ways of the Lord in ver^[]y many instances; therefore, for this cause, Alma and his brethren went into the land to preach the word unto them.

¹²Now, when they had come into the land, behold, to their astonishm^[]ent they found that the Zoramites had built synagogues, and that they did gather themselves together on one day of the week, which day they did call the day of the Lord; and they did worship after a manner which Alma and his brethren had never beheld;

¹³For they had a place built up in the center of their synagogue, a place for standing, which was high above the head; and the top th^[]ereof would only admit one person.

¹⁴Therefore, whosoever desired to worship must go forth and stand upon the top [X] thereof, and[X] stretch forth [X] his hands towards [X] heaven[], and cry with a loud voice, saying:

¹⁵Holy, holy God; we believe that thou art God, and we believe that thou art holy, and that thou wast a spirit, and that thou art a spirit, and that [X] thou wilt be a spirit forever.

¹⁶Holy God, we believe that thou hast separated us from our brethren; and we do not believe in the tradition of our brethren, which was handed down to them by the childishness of their fathers^[]; but we believe that thou hast elected us to be thy holy children; and also thou hast made it [] known unto us that [X] there shall be no Christ.

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but thou art the same yesterday today & forever & thou hast ~~hast~~ elected us that we shall be saved whilst all around us are elected to be cast by thy wrath down to Hell for the which holiness O God we thank thee & we also thank thee that thou hast elected us that we may not be led away after the foolish traditions of our Brethren which doth bind them down to a belief of Christ which doth lead their hearts to wander far from thee our God

& again we thank thee O God that we are a chosen & a holy People Amen

now it came to pass that after Alma & his Brethren & ^{his} Sons
Almas lisen sorro
had heard these prayers they were astonished beyond all measure

for behold every man did go forth & offer up these same prayers

now the place was called by them Rameumpton which being interpreted is the holy stand

now from this stand they did offer up every man the selfsame prayer unto God thanking their God that they were chosen of him & that he had not led them away after the tradition of their brethren & that their hearts **251** were not stolen away to believe in things to come which they knew nothing about

now when the People had all offered up thanks after their manner they returned to thier homes never speaking of their ~~g~~ God again until they had assembled themselves together again to the holy stand to offer up thanks after their manner

now when Alma saw thes his heart was grieved for he saw that they were a wicked & a perverse People yea he saw that their hearts were set upon Gold & upon silver & upon all manner of fene goods

yea & he also saw that their hearts were lifted up unto great boasting in their Pride

& he lifted up his voice to Heaven & cried saying O how long O Lord wilt thou suffer that thy servants shall dweel here below in thee flesh to behold such gross wickedness among the Children of men

¹⁷**B**ut thou art the same yesterday, today, **and** forever; **and** thou hast [X] elected us that we shall be saved, whilst all around us are elected to be cast by thy wrath down to hell; for the which holiness, O God, we thank thee; **and** we also thank thee that thou hast elected us, that we may not be led away after the foolish traditions of our brethren, which doth bind them down to a belief of Christ, which doth lead their hearts to wander far from thee, our God.

¹⁸**A**nd again we thank thee, O God, that we are a chosen **and** a holy people. Amen.

¹⁹**N**ow it came to pass that after Alma **and** his brethren **and** his sons
[X_ _ _ _ _]
had heard these prayers, they were astonished beyond all measure.

²⁰**F**or behold, every man did go forth **and** offer up these same prayers.

²¹**N**ow the place was called by them Rameumpton, which, being interpreted, is the holy stand.

²²**N**ow, from this stand they did offer up, **every** man, the selfsame prayer unto God, thanking their God that they were chosen of him, **and** that he **did** not lead them away after the tradition of their brethren, **and** that their hearts were not stolen away to believe in things to come, which they knew nothing about.

²³**N**ow, **after** the people had all offered up thanks after th[_]is manner, they returned to their homes, never speaking of their [_] God again until they had assembled themselves together again to the holy stand, to offer up thanks after their manner.

²⁴**N**ow when Alma saw this his heart was grieved; for he saw that they were a wicked **and** a perverse people; yea, he saw that their hearts were set upon gold, **and** upon silver, **and** upon all manner of fine goods.

²⁵**Y**ea, **and** he also saw that their hearts were lifted up unto great boasting, in their pride.

²⁶**A**nd he lifted up his voice to heaven, **and** cried, saying: O, how long, O Lord, wilt thou suffer that thy servants shall dwell here below in the[_] flesh, to behold such gross wickedness among the children of men?

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behold O God they cry unto thee & yet their hearts are swallowed up in their pride behold O God they cry unto thee with their mouths while they are puffed up even to greatness with the ~~vain~~ vain things of the world

behold O my God their costly apparels & their ringlets & their bracelets & their ornaments of gold & all their preasious things which they are ornamented with & behold their hearts are ~~ee~~t set upon them & yet hhey cry unto thee & say w we thank thee O God for we are a chosen People unto thee while others shall perish

yea & they say that thou hast made it known unto them that there shall be no Christ

O Lord God how long wilt thou fuffer that such wickedness & infidelity among this People O Lord wilt thou give me strength that I may bear with mine infermities for I am inferm & such wickedness among this People doth pair my soul

O Lord my heart is exceeding sorrowful wilt thou comfort my soul in Christ O Lord wilt thou grant unto me that I may have strength that I may suffer with patience these afflictions which shall come upon me because of the inequity of this people

O Lord wilt thou comfort my soul & give unto me success & also my feleow labourers which are with me yea Ammen & Aaron& & Omner & also Amulek & Zeezrom & also my two Sons yea even all these wilt thou comfort O Lord yea wilt thou Comfort their souls in Christ

wilt thou grant unto them that they may have strength that they may bear their afflictions which e shall come upon them because of the iniquities of this People

O Lord wilt thou grant unto us that we may have succss in bringing them again unto thee in Christ

behold O Lord their souls are preasius & many of them are our reear Breth(rer)
Zoramitez &C.
 therefore give unto us O Lord power & wisdem that we may bring these our brethren again unto thee

²⁷**Behold, O God, they cry unto thee, and** yet their hearts are swallowed up in their pride. **Behold, O God,** they cry unto thee with their mouths, while they are puffed up, even to greatness, with the [__] vain things of the world.

²⁸**Behold, O my God, their costly appar[el], and** their ringlets, **and** their bracelets, **and** their ornaments of gold, **and** all their pre[ci]ous things which they are ornamented with; **and** behold, their hearts are [__] set upon them, **and** yet they cry unto thee **and** say— [] We thank thee, O God, for we are a chosen people unto thee, while others shall perish.

²⁹**Yea, and** they say that thou hast made it known unto them that there shall be no Christ.

³⁰**O Lord God, how long wilt thou suffer that such wickedness and infidelity shall be among this people? O Lord,** wilt thou give me strength, that I may bear with mine infirmities. **For I am infirm, and** such wickedness among this people doth pain my soul.

³¹**O Lord, my heart is exceedingly sorrowful; wilt thou comfort my soul in Christ. O Lord,** wilt thou grant unto me that I may have strength, that I may suffer with patience these afflictions which shall come upon me, because of the iniquity of this people.

³²**O Lord, wilt thou comfort my soul, and give unto me success, and also my fellow labo[ur]ers who are with me—yea, Ammon, and Aaron[X], and Omner, and also Amulek and Zeezrom, and also my two sons—yea, even all these wilt thou comfort, O Lord. Yea, wilt thou comfort their souls in Christ.**

³³**Wilt thou grant unto them that they may have strength, that they may bear their afflictions which [] shall come upon them because of the iniquities of this people.**

³⁴**O Lord, wilt thou grant unto us that we may have success in bringing them again unto thee in [] Christ.**

³⁵**Behold, O Lord, their souls are precious, and many of them are our [_____] brethren; [_____] therefore, give unto us, O Lord, power and wisdom that we may bring these, our brethren, again unto thee.**

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now it came to pass that when Alma had said these words that he claped his hands upon all they which were with him & behold as he claped his hands upon them they were filled whie with the holy spirit

& after that they did separate 252 themselves one from another takeing no thought for themselves what they should eat or what they should drenk or what they should put on

& tt^e Lord provided for them that they should hunngar hungar not neither should they thirst yea & he also gave them strength they they should suffer no manner of afflictions save it were swallowed ~~up~~ up in the joy of Christ now this was according to the prayer of Alma & this because he prayed in faiih

³⁶Now it came to pass that when Alma had said these words, that he clapped his hands upon all them who were with him. And behold, as he clapped his hands upon them, they were filled [] with the Holy Spirit.

³⁷And after that they did separate themselves one from another, tak[]ing no thought for themselves what they should eat, or what they should drink, or what they should put on.

³⁸And the Lord provided for them that they should [] hunger not, neither should they thirst; yea, and he also gave them strength, that they should suffer no manner of afflictions, save it were swallowed [] up in the joy of Christ. Now this was according to the prayer of Alma; and this because he prayed in faith.