

& it came to pass that they did set guards over the Prisoners of the Lamanites & did compel them to go forth & bury their dead yea & also the dead of the Nephites which were slain & Moroni placed men over them to guard them whilst they should perform their labours

& Moroni went to the Moroni Causes the Lamanian city Bountiful

city of Mulek with Lehi & took command of the city & gave it unto Lehi now behold this Lehi was a man who had been with Moroni in the more part of all his Battles & he was a man like unto Moroni & they rejoiced in each others safety yea & they were beloved by each other & also beloved by all the people of Nephi

& it came to pass that after the Lamanites had finished burying their dead & also the dead of the Nephites they were marched back into the land Bountiful & Teancum by the orders of Moroni caused that they should commence in labouring in digging a ditch around about the land or the city Bountiful

& he caused that they should build a breast work of timbers upon the inner bank of the ditch & they cast up dirt out of the ditch against the breast work of timbers & thus they did cause the Lamanites to labour until they had ~~en~~^{incirc} ~~elede~~ the City of Bountiful around about with a strong wall of timbers & earth to an exceeding height

& this City became an exceeding strong hold & ever after **304** & in this city they did guard the Prisoners of the Lamanites yea even within a wall which they had caused them to build with their own hands now Moroni was compelled to cause the Lamanites to labour because it were easy to guard them while at their labour & he desired all his forces when he should make an attack upon the Lamanites

CHAPTER 53

The Lamanite prisoners are used to fortify the city Bountiful—Dissensions among the Nephites give rise to Lamanite victories—Helaman takes command of the two thousand stripling sons of the people of Ammon. About 64–63 B.C.

¹**And** it came to pass that they did set guards over the prisoners of the Lamanites, **and** did compel them to go forth **and** bury their dead, yea, **and** also the dead of the Nephites **who** were slain; **and** Moroni placed men over them to guard them while[] they should perform their labo[]rs.

²**And** Moroni went to the [X_X_X_ _ _ _ _] [X_ _ _ _ _] city of Mulek with Lehi, **and** took command of the city **and** gave it unto Lehi. **Now** behold, this Lehi was a man who had been with Moroni in the more part of all his battles; **and** he was a man like unto Moroni, **and** they rejoiced in each other's safety; yea, [] they were beloved by each other, **and** also beloved by all the people of Nephi.

³**And** it came to pass that after the [] Lamanites had finished burying their dead **and** also the dead of the Nephites, they were marched back into the land Bountiful; **and** Teancum, by the orders of Moroni, caused that they should commence [X] labo[]ring in digging a ditch []round about the land, or the city, Bountiful.

⁴**And** he caused that they should build a breast []work of timbers upon the inner bank of the ditch; **and** they cast up dirt out of the ditch against the breast []work of timbers; **and** thus they did cause the Lamanites to labo[]r until they had [] ~~en~~^{incirc} ~~elede~~ the city of [] Bountiful []round about with a strong wall of timbers **and** earth, to an exceeding height [].

⁵**And** this city became an exceeding strong []hold ever after; **and** in this city they did guard the prisoners of the Lamanites; yea, even within a wall which they had caused them to build with their own hands. **Now** Moroni was compelled to cause the Lamanites to labo[]r, because it was easy to guard them while at their labo[]r; **and** he desired all his forces when he should make an attack [] upon the Lamanites.

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& it came to pass that Moroni had thus gained a victory over one of the greatest of the armies of the Lamanites & had obtained possession of the city of Mulek which was one of the strongest holds of the Lamanites en the land of Nephe & thus he had also built a strong hold to retain Phis Prisoners

& it came to pass that he did no more attempt a Battle with the Lamanites en that year but he dit employ his men in prepareing for war yea & in makeing fortifications to guard against the Lamanites yea & also delivering therr women & therr Chh children from famine & affliction & proveding food for them armees

& now it came to pass that the armies of the Lamanites on the Se west Sea South while in the absence of Moroni on account of some intreague amongst the Lamanites Nephites which caused dissensions amongst them had gaened some ground over the Nephites yea insomuch that they had obtained feosssion of a numler of therr Cities in that part of the land

& thus because of iniquity amongst themselves yee because (of) desensions & intreague among themselves they were plased in ~~an~~ the most gen(dangerous)erous cercunstances

& now behold I thave some what to say concerning the People of M Ammon which in the beginning were Lamanites but by Amoon & his Brethren or rather by the power & word of God they had been co^{nverted unto the Lord}
hites take up arms in defence of
tes & C

& they had been brought down into the land of Zararemla & had ever since been protected by the Nephites

& because of their oath they d had been kept from taking up arms against their brethren & w for they had taken an oath that they never would shed blood more & accordeng to their oath they would have perished yea they would have suffered themselves to have fallen into the hands of their brethren had it not been for the pity & the excedeng love which Ammon & his brethren had had for them

& for thes caught they were brought down into the land of Zarahemla & they ever had been procehed by the Nephites

⁶And it came to pass that Moroni had thus gained a victory over one of the greatest of the armies of the Lamanites, and had obtained possession of the city of Mulek, which was one of the strongest holds of the Lamanites in the land of Nephi; and thus he had also built a strong []hold to retain []his prisoners.

⁷And it came to pass that he did no more attempt a battle with the Lamanites in that year, but he did employ his men in prepar[]ing for war, yea, and in mak[]ing fortifications to guard against the Lamanites, yea, and also delivering their women and their [_ _ _] children from famine and affliction, and providing food for their armies.

⁸And now it came to pass that the armies of the Lamanites, on the [_] west sea, south, while in the absence of Moroni on account of some intri[]gue amongst the [X] Nephites, which caused dissensions amongst them, had gained some ground over the Nephites, yea, insomuch that they had obtained p[]ossession of a number of their cities in that part of the land.

⁹And thus because of iniquity amongst themselves, yea, because of dissensions and intri[]gue among themselves they were placed in [X]the most [_ _]dangerous[_ _ _ _] circo[]mstances.

¹⁰And now behold, I []have some []what to say concerning the people of [] Ammon, who, in the beginning, were Lamanites; but by Ammon and his brethren, or rather by the power and word of God, they had been converted unto the Lord;
[_ _ _ _ X X X X X _]
[_ _ _ X _]

and they had been brought down into the land of Zarahemla, and had ever since been protected by the Nephites.

¹¹And because of their oath they [] had been kept from taking up arms against their breth[]ren; [X _] for they had taken an oath that they never would shed blood more; and according to their oath they would have perished; yea, they would have suffered themselves to have fallen into the hands of their brethren, had it not been for the pity and the exceding love which Ammon and his brethren had had for them.

¹²And for this cause they were brought down into the land of Zarahemla; and they ever had been protected by the Nephites.

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but it came to pass that when they saw the danger & the many afflictions & tribulations which the Nephites ~~did~~^{bore} for them they were moved with compassion & were desirous to take up arms in the defence of their country

but behold as they were about to take their weapons of war they were overpowered by the persuasions of Helaman & his brethren for they were about to break the oath which they had made

& Helaman feared lest by so doing they should lose their souls therefore all those which had entered into this covenant were compelled to behold their Brethren wade through their afflictions in their dangerous circumstances at this time

but behold it came to pass they had many Sons which had not entered into a covenant that they would not take their weapons of war to defend themselves **305** against their enemies therefore they did assemble themselves together at this time as many as were able to take up arms & they called themselves Nephites

& they entered into a covenant to fight for the liberty of the Nephites yea to protect the land unto the laying down of their lives yea even they covenanted that they never would give up their liberty but they would fight in all cases to protect the Nephites & themselves from bondage

now behold there were two thousand of those young men which entered into this covenant & took their weapons of war to defend their country

& now behold as they never had ~~h~~ hitherto been a disadvantage to the Nephites they became now at this period of time also a great support for they took their weapons of war & they would that Helaman should be their leader

& they were all young men & they were exceedingly valiant for courage & also for strength & activity but behold this was not all they were men which were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted

yea they were men of truth & soberness for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God & to walk up rightly before him

¹³But it came to pass that when they saw the danger, **and** the many afflictions **and** [] tribulations which the Nephites [] bore [] for them, they were moved with compassion **and** were desir[]ous to take up arms in the defence of their country.

¹⁴But behold, as they were about to take their weapons of war, they were overpowered by the persuasions of Helaman **and** his brethren, for they were about to **break** the oath which they had made.

¹⁵And Helaman feared lest by so doing they should lo[]se their souls; therefore all those **who** had entered into this covenant were compelled **to** behold their **brethren** wade through their afflictions, in their dangerous **circumstances** at this time.

¹⁶But behold, it came to pass they had many **sons**, **who** had **not** entered into a covenant that they would not take their weapons of war to defend themselves against their enemies; therefore they did assemble themselves together **at this** time, as many as were able to take up arms, **and** they called themselves Nephites.

¹⁷And they entered into a covenant [] to fight for the liberty of the Nephites, yea, to protect the land unto the laying down of their lives; yea, even they covenanted that they never would give up their liberty, but they would fight in all cases to protect the Nephites **and** themselves from **bondage**.

¹⁸Now behold, there were two thousand of those young men, **who** entered into **this** covenant **and** took their weapons of war to defend their country.

¹⁹And now behold, as they never had [] hitherto been a disadvantage to the Nephites, they became now **at this** period of time also a great support; for they took their weapons of war, **and** they would that Helaman should be their leader.

²⁰And they were all young men, **and** they were exceedingly valiant for courage, **and** also for strength **and** activity; but behold, this was not all— they were men **who** were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted.

²¹Yea, they were men of t[]ruth **and** soberness, for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God **and** to walk up []rightly before him.

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& now it came to pass that Helamen did march
at the head of his two ~~hæ~~ thousand striplengs
soldiers to the support of the People
Moroni sends ar Epistle
in the Borders of the Land on the South by the west
Sea

& thus ended the twenty & ei^gghth year of the
Reign of the gudges over 'the People of Nephi
&c.

²²**And** now it came to pass that Helaman did march
at the head of his two [_] thousand stripling [_]
soldiers, to the support of the **p**ople
[X_X_X_ _ _X]
in the **b**orders of the **l**and on the **s**outh by the west
sea.

²³**And** thus ended the twenty **and eighth** year of the
reign of the **j**udges over t[_]he **p**ople of Nephi
[X_].