

Chipter

Amd now it came to pass in the commenc^ement of the thirtyeth yea^r of the reign of the Judges on the second day on the first month Moroni received an Epistle from Helaman stateeng the affairs of the People in that quarter of the land

& these are the words which he wrote sayeng my dearly beloved Brother Moroni as wall en the Lord as in the tiibulations of aur warfare behold my beloved Brothes I have some whatt to tell you concerning our warfare en this part of the land

behold twethousand of the Sons of these men whech Ammon brought down out of the lard of Nephi now ye have known that these were a desendant of Laman thech was the eldest Son of arer Father Lehe

now I knead not rehearse unto you concerneng there traditions or their unbelief for thou knowest concerning all these things

therefore it supfeceth me that I tell you that ~~to~~ two thousand of these mounng men hath taken their weopons of war & would that I should be their leader & we have come fourth fo defend our country

& now ye also know concerneng the covenatt which their Fathers made that they would not take up their weopons of war agaerst therr Brethren to shed blood

but in the twenty & sex year when they saw our afflictions & our tribulations for them they were about to brake the covenant which they had made & take up their weopons of war in our defence

but I would not supfer them that they should brake this covenart which they had made supposeng that God would strengthen us insomuch that wee ~~se~~ should not supfer more because of the e to Moroni & C fulfilling the oath which they had taken

CHAPTER 56 [_ _ _ _ _]

Helaman sends an epistle to Moroni, recounting the state of the war with the Lamanites—Antipus and Helaman gain a great victory over the Lamanites—Helaman's two thousand stripling sons fight with miraculous power, and none of them are slain. Verse 1, about 62 B.C.; verses 2–19, about 66 B.C.; and verses 20–57, about 65–64 B.C.

¹And now it came to pass in the commencement of the thirtieth year of the reign of the judges, on the second day in the first month, Moroni received an epistle from Helaman, stat[]ing the affairs of the people in that quarter of the land.

²And these are the words which he wrote, saying: My dearly beloved brother, Moroni, as well in the Lord as in the tribulations of our warfare; behold, my beloved brother, I have some[]wha[]t to tell you concerning our warfare in this part of the land.

³Behold, two[]thousand of the sons of those men whom Ammon brought down out of the land of Nephi—now ye have known that these were [] descendants of Laman, who was the eldest son of ou[]r father Lehi;

⁴Now I []need not rehearse unto you concerning their traditions or their unbelief, for thou knowest concerning all these things—

⁵Therefore it sufficeth me that I tell you that [X] two thousand of these young men have taken their weapons of war, and would that I should be their leader; and we have come fo[]rth to defend our country.

⁶And now ye also know concerning the covenant which their fathers made, that they would not take up their weapons of war against their brethren to shed blood.

⁷But in the twenty and sixth year, when they saw our afflictions and our tribulations for them, they were about to break the covenant which they had made and take up their weapons of war in our defence.

⁸But I would not suffer them that they should break this covenant which they had made, supposing that God would strengthen us, insomuch that w[]e [_ _] should not suffer more because of the [_ X X X _] fulfilling the oath which they had taken.

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but behold these are one thing in which we may have great joy for behold in the twenty & sex year I Helaman did march at the head of these two thousand young men to the City of Judeah to assist Antipus whom ye had appointed a leader over the people of that part of the land

& I did join my two thousand Sons for ^{they} are worthy to be called Sons of to the army of Antepus in hee which strength Antipus did rejoice exceedingly for behold his army had been reduced by the Lamanites because of the numerority of then forces haveing slain a vast number of our men ^{for} of which cause **310** we have to mourn

nevertheless we may console ourselves in this point that thy have deed in the lause of their country & of their God yea & they are happy

& the Lamanites had also retained many prisoners whom are cheef Captains for none other have they spared alive & we suppose ^{that} they are now at thes time en the land of Nephe it is so if they are not slain

& now these are the citees which the Lamanites hath obtained possession of by the shedding the blood of so many of our vallnt men

the ladd of Manti of the city of Manti & the city of Zeezrum & the city of Cumeni & the city of Antiparah

& these are the citted which they possessed when I arived at the City of Judeah & I found Antepus & his soldn solding weth their mights to fortify the city

yea & they were depressed in body as well as in spirit for they had faught valiantly by day & toiled by nighh to manntain their citees & thus they had suffered great afflcions of every kind

& now they were determined to conquer in thus place or dee therefore you may well suppose that the little force which I brought with my yea those Sons of mine gave them great hope^s & much joy

& now it came to pass that wher the Lamanites saw that Antipas had received a greater strengtst to hes army they were compeled by the orders of Ammoron to not come against the cety of Judeah of against us to Battle

⁹But behold, []here[] is one thing in which we may have great joy. For behold, in the twenty and sixth year, I, Helaman, did march at the head of these two thousand young men to the city of Judea[], to assist Antipus, whom ye had appointed a leader over the people of that part of the land.

¹⁰And I did join my two thousand sons, (for they are worthy to be called sons) [X] to the army of Antipus, in [_ _] which strength Antipus did rejoice exceedingly; for behold, his army had been reduced by the Lamanites because [X_X_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _X] their forces had slain a vast number of our men, for[X] which cause we have to mourn.

¹¹Nevertheless, we may console ourselves in this point, tha[]t they have died in the cause of their country and of their God, yea, and they are happy.

¹²And the Lamanites had also retained many prisoners, all of whom are chief captains, for none other have they spared alive. And we suppose that they are now at this time in the land of Nephi; it is so if they are not slain.

¹³And now these are the cities of which the Lamanites hav[]e obtained possession [X] by the shedding of the blood of so many of our valiant men:

¹⁴The land of Manti, or the city of Manti, and the city of Zeezrom, and the city of Cumeni, and the city of Antiparah.

¹⁵And these are the cities which they possessed when I arrived at the city [_ _] of Judea[]; and I found Antipus and his [_ _]men toiling with their might[] to fortify the city.[]

¹⁶Yea, and they were depressed in body as well as in spirit, for they had fought valiantly by day and toiled by night to maintain their cities; and thus they had suffered great afflictions of every kind.

¹⁷And now they were determined to conquer in this place or die; therefore you may well suppose that this little force which I brought with me, yea, those sons of mine, gave them great hopes and much joy.

¹⁸And now it came to pass that when the Lamanites saw that Antipus had received a greater strengt[]h to his army, they were compelled by the orders of Ammoron to not come against the city of Judea[], or against us, to battle.

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& the Lamanites thus seeing our forces encreas daily & provisions arive for our support they began to be fearful & began to sally forth if it were possible to put an end to our receiving Provi[sions] & strength

now when we saw that the Lananites began to grow uneasy on this wise we were desereous to bring a stratigem into efect upon them therefore Antipus ordered that I should march foth with my little Sons to a neighboring City as if we were carrying Provisions to a neighoring City

& we were to march near the city Antiparah as if we weere a going to the cety beyond shore the borders by the Sea Shore

& it came to pass that we did march forth as if with our Proveseons to go to that City

& it came to pass that Antipara Antipus did march forth hith ap part of his army leaveeng the remainder to maintain the city Antipar did not march forth until I had gone forth with my little army & cane wear the City Antiparah

& nowⁱⁿ the Cety Antiparah were stateoned the strongest army of the Lamanites yea the most numerous

& it came to pass that when they had been snforned by their spies they came forth with their army end marched agaenst us

& it came to pass that we did flee before them a-Knorthward & thus we did lead away the noost powerful army of the Lamanites

yea even to a considerable distance insomuch that when they saw the army of Antipus persueing them with their mights they did rot turn to the right nor to the left but persued their march in a strait course after us & as we suppose that it was their intent to slay us before Antipus should overtake them & this that that might not be surrounded by our^{People}

&C

& now Antipus beholding our danger did speed the march of his army but behold it was night therefore they did not overtake us neither did Antipus ~~ove~~ overtake them therefore we did camp for the night

²⁹And the Lamanites, thus seeing our forces increase daily, and provisions arrive for our support, they began to be fearful, and began to sally forth, if it were possible to put an end to our receiving provi[sions] and strength.

³⁰Now when we saw that the Lamanites began to grow uneasy on this wise, we were desir[ous] to bring a stratagem into effect upon them; therefore Antipus ordered that I should march forth with my little sons to a neighboring city, as if we were carrying provisions to a neighboring city.

³¹And we were to march near the city of Antiparah, as if we w[ere] [X] going to the city beyond, in the borders by the sea[shore].

³²And it came to pass that we did march forth, as if with our provisions, to go to that city.

³³And it came to pass that [] Antipus did march forth with a [] part of his army, leav[ing] the remainder to maintain the city. But he did not march forth until I had gone forth with my little army, and came near the city Antiparah.

³⁴And now, in the city Antiparah were statione[d] the strongest army of the Lamanites; yea, the most numerous.

³⁵And it came to pass that when they had been informed by their spies, they came forth with their army and marched against us.

³⁶And it came to pass that we did flee before them, [] northward. And thus we did lead away the m[ost] powerful army of the Lamanites;

³⁷Yea, even to a considerable distance, insomuch that when they saw the army of Antipus pursu[ing] them, with their might [], they did not turn to the right nor to the left, but pursued their march in a straight course after us; and, as we suppose, [X] it was their intent to slay us before Antipus should overtake them, and this that they might not be surrounded by our people.

[X]

³⁸And now Antipus, beholding our danger, did speed the march of his army. But behold, it was night; therefore they did not overtake us, neither did Antipus [] overtake them; therefore we did camp for the night.

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& it came to pass that before the dawn of the morneng behold the Lamanites were persueing us now we were not supfeceertly strong to contend weth them yea I would not suffer that my little Sons should fall into their hards therefore we did continue our march & we took our march into the wilderness

now they dearest not turn to the right nor to the left lest they should be surrounded neither would I turn to the right or **312** be the left lest they should over take me & we could not stand against them but be slain & they would make their escape & thus we did flee all that day into the wilderness even until it was dark

& it came to pass that again we saw the Laman when the light of the morning came we saw these Lamanites upon us & we did flee before ^{them}

but it came to pass that they did not persue us far before they halted & it was in the morning of the third day of the seventh Month

& now wherher they were over taken by Antipus ~~or~~ we kew not but I said unto my men behold we know not but they have halted for the purpose that we should come against them that they may ~~eath~~ catch us in their snare

therefore what say ye my Sons will ye go~~n~~ against them to Battle

& now I say unto you my Beloved Brether Moroni that never had I seen so great courage nay not amongst all the Nephites

for as I had ever called them my Sons for they were all of them very young even so they said unto me Father behold our God is withe us & he will not suffer that we sholl fall then let it go forth ~~w~~ee we would not slay our Brethren if they would let us alone~~n~~ therefore let us go lest they should orer power the army af Antepus

now they never had faught yet they did not fear death & they did theng more upon the liberty of oheir Fathers then they did upon their lives yea they had been taught bg their Mothers that if they did not doubt thet God would deliter them

G they rehearsed unto me the words of their Mothers saying we do not doubt our Mothers ~~k~~new knew

³⁹And it came to pass that before the dawn of the morning, behold, the Lamanites were pursu[]ing us. Now we were not sufficiently strong to contend with them; yea, I would not suffer that my little sons should fall into their hands; therefore we did continue our march, and we took our march into the wilderness.

⁴⁰Now they du[]rst not turn to the right nor to the left lest they should be surrounded; neither would I turn to the right nor to the left lest they should over[]take me, and we could not stand against them, but be slain, and they would make their escape; and thus we did flee all that day into the wildern[]ess, even until it was dark.

⁴¹And it came to pass that again, [X_X_X_ _ _ _ _] when the light of the morning came we saw the[_] Lamanites upon us, and we did flee before them.

⁴²But it came to pass that they did not pursue us far before they halted; and it was in the morning of the third day of the seventh month.

⁴³And now, whether they were over[]taken by Antipus [X] we knew not, but I said unto my men: Behold, we know not but they have halted for the purpose that we should come against them, that they might [_ _ _ _] catch us in their snare;

⁴⁴Therefore what say ye, my sons, will ye go[] against them to battle?

⁴⁵And now I say unto you, my beloved brother Moroni, that never had I seen so great courage, nay, not amongst all the Nephites.

⁴⁶For as I had ever called them my sons (for they were all of them very young) even so they said unto me: Father, behold our God is with[] us, and he will not suffer that we should fall; then let us go forth; [X] we[] would not slay our brethren if they would let us alone[]; therefore let us go, lest they should over[]power the army of Antipus.

⁴⁷Now they never had fought, yet they did not fear death; and they did think more upon the liberty of their fathers than they did upon their lives; yea, they had been taught by their mothers, that if they did not doubt, [X] God would deliver them.

⁴⁸And they rehearsed unto me the words of their mothers, saying: We do not doubt our mothers [_ _ _ _] knew it.

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& as we had no place for our Presoners that we could guard them ~~there~~ to keep them from the armies of the Lamanites therefore we sent them th the land of Zarahemla & a part of those men which were not slain of Antipus with them & the remainder I took & joined them to my streplin Amoonites & tooke our march back to the City of Jewd Judeah

⁵⁷And as we had no place for our prisoners, that we could guard them [X] to keep them from the armies of the Lamanites, therefore we sent them to the land of Zarahemla, and a part of those men who were not slain of Antipus, with them; and the remainder I took and joined them to my stripling Ammonites, and took[] our march back to the city of [_ _ _] Judea[.].