

& behold now it came to pass that our next object was to obtain the City of Manti but behold there was no way that we could lead them out of the City by our small bands for behold they remembered that which we had hitherto done therefore we could not decoy them away from their strong holds

& they were so exceeding more numerous than was our army that we durst not go forth & attack them in their strong holds

yea & it became expedient that we should employ our men to the maintaining these parts of the land of the which we had retained of our possessions therefore it became expedient that we should wait that we might receive more strength from the land of Zarahemla & also a new supply of provisions

& it came to pass that I thus did send an embassy to the great governor of our land to acquaint him concerning the affairs of our People & it came to pass that we did wait to receive provisions & strengths from the land of Zarahemla

but behold this did not profit us but little for the Lamanites were also receiving great strength from day to day & also many provisions & thus were our circumstances at this period of time

the Lamanites were rallying forth against us from time to time resolving by stratagem to destroy us nevertheless we could not come to battle with them because

&C

of their retreats & their strong holds

& it came to pass that we did wait in these difficult circumstances for the space of many months even until we were about to perish for the want of food

CHAPTER 58

Helaman, Gid, and Teomner take the city of Manti by a stratagem—The Lamanites withdraw—The sons of the people of Ammon are preserved as they stand fast in defense of their liberty and faith. About 63–62 B.C.

¹And behold, now it came to pass that our next object was to obtain the city of Manti; but behold, there was no way that we could lead them out of the city by our small bands. For behold, they remembered that which we had hitherto done; therefore we could not decoy them away from their strong holds.

²And they were so much more numerous than was our army that we durst not go forth and attack them in their strong holds.

³Yea, [X] and it became expedient that we should employ our men to the maintaining those parts of the land [X_X] which we had regained of our possessions; therefore it became expedient that we should wait, that we might receive more strength from the land of Zarahemla and also a new supply of provisions.

⁴And it came to pass that I thus did send an embassy to the [X] governor of our land, to acquaint him concerning the affairs of our people. And it came to pass that we did wait to receive provisions and strength from the land of Zarahemla.

⁵[X] But behold, this did [X] profit us but little; for the Lamanites were also receiving great strength from [] day to day, and also many provisions; and thus were our circumstances at this period of time.

⁶And the Lamanites were rallying forth against us from time to time, resolving by stratagem to destroy us; nevertheless we could not come to battle with them, because [X] of their retreats and their strong holds.

⁷And it came to pass that we did wait in these difficult circumstances for the space of many months, even [] until we were about to perish for the want of food.

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& it came to pass that when they saw that we were not strong according to our numbers & fearing that they should cut them off from their support except they should come out to battle against us & kill us & also supposeing that they could easily destroy us with their numerous hosts therefore they began preparations to come out against us to battle

& when we saw that they were making preparations to come out against us behold I caused that Gid with a small number of men should secrete himself in the wilderness & also that Teomner should with a small number of men secretee ~~themsel~~^{himself} ~~ves~~ also in the wilderness

now Gid & his men were on the right & the other on the left & when they had thus secreted themselves behold I remained with the remainder of my army in that same place where we had first pitched our tents against the time that the Lamanites should come out to battle

& it came n of the City of Manti to pass that the Lamanites did come out with the numerous army against us & when they had come & were about to fall upon us with the sword I caused that my men those which were with me should retreat into the wilderness

& it came to pass that the Lamanites did follow after us with great speed for they were exceedingly desirous to overtake us that they might slay us therefore they did follow us into the wilderness & we did pass by in the medst of Gid & Teomner insomuch that they were not discovered by the Lamanites

& et came to pass that when the Lamanites had passed by or when the army had passed by Gid & Teomner did rise up from their secret places & did cut off their pees of the Lamanites that they should not return th the City

& et came to pass that when they had cut them off they ran to che city & fell upon the guards which were left to guard the city insomuch that they did **318** destroy them & did take possession of the city

now this was done because the Lamanites did suffer their ~~wh~~^{whole} army save a few guards to only to be lead aaay irto the wilderness

¹⁵And it came to pass that when they saw that [X] we were not strong, []according[] to our [X] numbers, and fearing that w[]e should cut them off from their support except they should come out to battle against us and kill us, and also suppos[]ing that they could easily destroy us with their numerous hosts, therefore they began to make preparations[_ _ _ _ _] to come out against us to battle.

¹⁶And when we saw that they were mak[]ing preparations to come out against us, behold, I caused that Gid, with a small number of men, should secrete himself in the wilderness, and also that Teomner [X] and a small number of men should secrete[] ~~themsel~~[X]ves also in the wilderness.

¹⁷Now Gid and his men we[]re on the right and the others on the left; and when they had thus secreted themselves, behold, I remained, with the remainder of my army, in that same place where we had first pitched our tents against the tim[]e that the Lamanites should come out to battle.

¹⁸And it came [_ X X X X X] to pass that the Lamanites did come out with the []ir numerous army against us. And when they had come and were about to fall upon us with the sword, I caused that my men, those who were with me, should retreat into the wilderness.

¹⁹And it came to pass that the Lamanites did follow after us with great speed, for they were exceedingly desir[]ous to overtake us that they might [_]slay us; therefore they did follow us into the wilderness; and we did pass by in the midst of Gid and Teomner, insomuch that they were not discovered by the Lamanites.

²⁰And it came to pass that when the Lamanites had passed by, or when the army had passed by, Gid and Teomner did rise up from their secret places, and did cut off the[_] spies of the Lamanites that they should not return to the city.

²¹And it came to pass that when they had cut them off, they ran to the city and fell upon the guards who were left to guard the city, insomuch that they did destroy them and did take possession of the city.

²²Now this was done because the Lamanites did suffer their [_]whole[] army, save a few guards [X] only, to be le[]d away into the wilderness.

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but behold our armies are small to maintain so great a number of Cities & so great possessions

but behold we trust in our God who hath given us victory over those lands insomuch that we have obtained those cities & those lands which were our own

now we do not know the cause that the government does not grant us more strength neither does those men which came up unto us know why we have not received greater strength

behold we do not know but what ye are unsuccessful & ye have drawn away the forces into that quarter of the land if so we do not desire to murmur

& if it is not so behold we feel that there is some faction in the government that they do not send more men to our assistance for we know that they are more numerous than that which they have sent

but behold it mattereth not we trust God will deliver us notwithstanding the weakness of our armies yea & deliver us out of the hands of **319** our enemies

behold this is the twenty & ninth in the latter end & we are in the possession of our lands & the Lamanites have fled to the land of Nephi

& those Sons of the people of Ammon of which I have so highly spoken are with me in the city of Manti & the Lord hath supported them yea & kept them from falling by the sword insomuch that even one Soul hath not been slain

but behold they have received many wounds nevertheless they stand fast in that liberty wherewith God hath made them free & they are strict to remember the Lord their God from day to day yea they do observe to keep his statutes & his Judgments & his commandments Continually & their faith is strong in the Prophecies concerning that which is to come

³²But behold, our armies are small to maintain so great a number of cities and so great possessions.

³³But behold, we trust in our God who has[] given us victory over those lands, insomuch that we have obtained those cities and those lands, which were our own.

³⁴[]Now we[]do not know the cause that the government does not grant us more strength; neither do[] those men who came up unto us know why we have not received greater strength.

³⁵Behold, we do not know but what ye are unsuccessful, and ye have drawn away the forces into that quarter of the land; if so, we do not desire to murmur.

³⁶And if it is not so, behold, w[]e fear that there is some f[]action in the government, that they do not []send[] more men to our assistance; for[] we know that they are more numerous than that which they have sent.

³⁷But, behold, it mattereth not—we trust God will deliver us, notwithstanding the weakness of our armies, yea, and deliver us out of the hands of our enemies.

³⁸Behold, this is the twenty and ninth year, in the latter end, and we are in the possession of our lands; and the Lamanites have fled to the land of Nephi.

³⁹And those sons of the people of Ammon, of whom I have so highly spoken, are with [X] me in the city of Manti; and the Lord has[] supported them, yea, and kept them from falling by the sword, insomuch that even one soul has[] not been slain.

⁴⁰But behold, they have received many wounds; nevertheless they stand fast in that liberty wherewith God has[] made them free; and they are strict to remember the Lord their God from day to day; yea, they do observe to keep his statutes, and his judgments, and his commandments continually; and their faith is strong in the prophecies concerning that which is to come.

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& now my Beloved Brother Moroni that the Lord our God who hath redeaed us & made us free may keep you coneinually in his presence yea & that he may favor this People even that ye may have success in obtaining the possession of all that which the Lamanites hath taken from us which was for our support & now behold I close mine Epistle I am Helaman the Son of Alma——

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⁴¹And now, my beloved brother, Moroni, may the Lord our God, who has[] redeemed us and made us free, [X] keep you continually in his presence; yea, and [X] may he favor this people, even that ye may have success in obtaining the possession of all that which the Lamanites have taken from us, which was for our support. And now, behold, I close mine epistle. I am Helaman, the son of Alma[].