

& it came to pass in the fifty & fourth year there were many dissensions in the Church & there was also a contention among the people insomuch that there was much bloodshed

& the rebellious part were slain & driven out of the land & they did go unto the King of the Lamanites

& it came to pass that they did endeavor to stir up the Lamanites to war against the Nephites but behold the Lamanites were exceeding afraid insomuch that they would not hearken to the words of those dissenters

but it came to pass in the fifty & sixth year of the reign of the Judges there were dissenters which went up from the Nephites unto the Lamanites & they succeeded with those others in stirring them up to anger against the Nephites & they were all that year preparing for war

& in the fifty & seventh year they did come down against the Nephites to battle & they did commence the work of death yea insomuch that in the fifty & eighth year of the reign of the Judges they succeeded in obtaining possession of the land of Zarahemla yea & also all the lands even unto the land which was near the land Bountiful

& the Nephites & the armies of Moronihah were driven even into the land of Bountiful

& there^t & they did fortify against the Lamanites from the west Sea even unto the east it being **337** a days journey for a Nephites on the line which they had fortified & stationed their armies to defend their north country

& thus those dissenters of the Nephites with the help of a numerous army of the Lamanites had obtained all the possession of the Nephites which was in the land southward & all this was done in the fifty & ^eighth & ninth years of the reign of the Judges

CHAPTER 4

Nephite dissenters and the Lamanites join forces and take the land of Zarahemla—The Nephites' defeats come because of their wickedness—The Church dwindles, and the people become weak like the Lamanites. About 38–30 B.C.

¹**And** it came to pass in the fifty **and** fourth year there were many dissensions in the **church**, **and** there was also a contention among the people, insomuch that there was much bloodshed.

²**And** the rebellious part were slain **and** driven out of the land, **and** they did go unto the **king** of the Lamanites.

³**And** it came to pass that they did endeavor to stir up the Lamanites to war against the Nephites; but behold, the Lamanites were exceeding**ly** afraid, insomuch that they would not hearken to the words of those dissenters.

⁴**But** it came to pass in the fifty **and** sixth year of the reign of the **judges**, there were dissenters **who** went up from the Nephites unto the Lamanites; **and** they succeeded with those others in stirring them up to anger against the Nephites; **and** they were all that year prepar[]ing for war.

⁵**And** in the fifty **and** seventh year they did come down against the Nephites to battle, **and** they did commence the work of death; yea, insomuch that in the fifty **and** eighth year of the reign of the **judges** they succeeded in obtaining possession of the land of Zarahemla; yea, **and** also all the lands, even unto the land which was near the land Bountiful.

⁶**And** the Nephites **and** the armies of Moronihah were driven even into the land of Bountiful;

⁷**And** there[] [] they did fortify against the Lamanites, from the west **sea**, even unto the east; it being a day's journey for a Nephite[], on the **line** which they had fortified **and** stationed their armies to defend their north country.

⁸**And** thus those dissenters of the Nephites, with the help of a numerous army of the Lamanites, had obtained all the possession of the Nephites which was in the land southward. **And** all this was done in the fifty **and** []eight[_ _]h **and** ninth years of the reign of the **judges**.

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& it came to pass in the sixtieth year of the reign of the Judges Moronihah did succeed with his armies in obtaining many parts of the land yea they retained many cities which had fallen into the hands of the Lamanites

& it came to pass in the sixty & first year of the reign of the Judges they succeeded in retaining even the half of all their possessions

now this great loss of the Nephits & the great slaughter which was among them would not have hapened ~~had~~ had it not been for their wickedness & their abomination which was among them ~~yea~~ & it was among those also which professed to belong to the church of God

& it was because of the pride of their hearts because of their exceding riches yea it was because of their oppression to the poor withholding their food from the hungry withho~~ld~~lding their cloathing from the naked & smiting their humble brethren upon the cheek^s makeing a mock of that which was sacred denying the spirit of prophecy & of revelation murdering plundering lieing stealing committing adultery raiseing up in great contentions & desenting away into the land of Nephi among the Lamanites

& because of this their great wickedness & their boastings in their own strength they were left in their own strength therefore they did not prosper but were afflicted & smitten & driven before the Lamanites until they had lost possession of almost all their lands

but behold Moronihah did preach many things unto the people because of their iniquity & also Nephi & Lehi which were the Sons of Helaman did preach many things unto the people yea & did prophesy many things unto them concerning their iniquities & what should come unto them if they did not repent of their Sins

& it came to pass that they did repent & inas much as they did repent they did begin to prosper

for when Moronihah saw that they did repent he did venture to lead them forth from place to place & from city to city even until they had retained the one half of their property & the one half of^{all} their lands

⁹**And** it came to pass in the sixtieth year of the reign of the **judges**, Moronihah did succeed with his armies in obtaining many parts of the land; yea, they **regained** many cities which had fallen into the hands of the Lamanites.

¹⁰**And** it came to pass in the sixty **and** first year of the reign of the **judges** they **succeed**ed in **regain**ing even the half of all their possessions.

¹¹**Now** this great loss of the Nephites, **and** the great slaughter which was among them, would not have happened [_] had it not been for their wickedness **and** their abomination which was among them; [_]yea[_], **and** it was among those also **who** professed to belong to the church of God.

¹²**And** it was because of the pride of their hearts, because of their **exceed**ing riches, yea, it was because of their oppression to the poor, withholding their food from the hungry, withho[_] [_]lding their clo[_]thing from the naked, **and** smiting their humble brethren upon the cheek[_], mak[_]ing a mock of that which was sacred, denying the spirit of prophecy **and** of revelation, murdering, plundering, ly[_]ing, stealing, committing adultery, r[_]is[_]ing up in great contentions, **and** **desert**ing away into the land of Nephi, among the Lamanites—

¹³**And** because of this their great wickedness, **and** their boastings in their own strength, they were left in their own strength; therefore they did not prosper, but were afflicted **and** smitten, **and** driven before the Lamanites, until they had lost possession of almost all their lands.

¹⁴**But** behold, Moronihah did preach many things unto the people because of their iniquity, **and** also Nephi **and** Lehi, **who** were the **sons** of Helaman, did preach many things unto the people, yea, **and** did prophesy many things unto them concerning their iniquities, **and** what should come unto them if they did not repent of their **sins**.

¹⁵**And** it came to pass that they did repent, **and** inas[_]much as they did repent they did begin to prosper.

¹⁶**For** when Moronihah saw that they did repent he did venture to lead them forth from place to place, **and** from city to city, even until they had **regain**ed the one-half of their property **and** the one-half of **all** their lands.

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& thus ended the sixty & first year of the reign of the Judges

& it came to pass in the sixty & second year of the reign of the Judges that Moronihah could obtain no more possessions over the Lamanites

therefore they did abandon their design to obtain the remainder of their lands for so numerous was the Lamanites that it became impossible for the Nephites to obtain more power over them therefore Moronihah did employ all his armies in maintaining those parts which he had taken

& it came to pass because of the greatness of the number of the Lamanites the Nephites were in great fear lest they should be overpowered & ~~slain~~ trodden down & slain & destroyed

yea they began to remember the prophecies of Alma & also the words of Mosiah & **338** they saw that they had been a stiffnecked people & that they had set at nought the commandments of God

& that that they had altered & trampled under their feet the laws of Mosiah or that which the Lord commanded him to give unto the people & thus seeing that their laws had become corrupt & that they had become a wicked people insomuch that they were wicked even like unto the Lamanites

& because of their iniquity the church had began to dwindle & they began to disbelieve in the spirit of prophecy & in the spirit of revelation & the Judgments of God did stare them in the face

& they saw they had become ~~wi~~^{weak}~~ked~~ like unto their brethren the Lamanites & that the spirit of the Lord did no more preserve them yea it had withdrawn from ~~them~~ because the spirit of the Lord doth not dwell in unholy tempels

therefore the Lord did ~~en~~^{cease} to preserve them by his maraculous & matchless power for they had fallen into a state of unbelief & awful wickedness & they saw that the Lamanites were more exceding numerous than they & except they should ~~rep~~^{cleave}~~ent~~ unto the Lord their God they must unavoidably perish

¹⁷And thus ended the sixty **and** first year of the reign of the **judges**.

¹⁸And it came to pass in the sixty **and** second year of the reign of the **judges**, that Moronihah could obtain no more possessions over the Lamanites.

¹⁹Therefore they did abandon their design to obtain the remainder of their lands, for so numerous **were** the Lamanites that it became impossible for the Nephites to obtain more power over them; therefore Moronihah did employ all his armies in maintaining those parts which he had taken.

²⁰And it came to pass, because of the greatness of the number of the Lamanites the Nephites were in great fear, lest they should be overpowered, **and [X]** trodden down, **and** slain, **and** destroyed.

²¹Yea, they began to remember the prophecies of Alma, **and** also the words of Mosiah; **and** they saw that they had been a stiffnecked people, **and** that they had set at **naught** the commandments of God;

²²And that **[X]** they had altered **and** tramp[]led under their feet the laws of Mosiah, or that which the Lord commanded him to give unto the people; **and** **they saw** that their laws had become corrupted, **and** that they had become a wicked people, insomuch that they were wicked even like unto the Lamanites.

²³And because of their iniquity the church had begun to dwindle; **and** they began to disbelieve in the spirit of prophecy **and** in the spirit of revelation; **and** the **judgments** of God did stare them in the face.

²⁴And they saw **that** they had become []**weak**[] like unto their brethren, the Lamanites, **and** that the **Spirit** of the Lord did no more preserve them; yea, it had withdrawn from **them** because the **Spirit** of the Lord doth not dwell in unholy **temples**—

²⁵Therefore the Lord did []**cease**[] to preserve them by his **miraculous and** matchless power, for they had fallen into a state of unbelief **and** awful wickedness; **and** they saw that the Lamanites were **[X] exceedingly more** numerous than they, **and** except they should []**cleave**[] unto the Lord their God they must unavoidably perish.

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for behold they saw that the strength of the Lamanites was as great as their strength even man for man & thus had they fallen into this great transgression yea thus had they become weak because of their transgression in the space of not many years

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²⁶For behold, they saw that the strength of the Lamanites was as great as their strength, even man for man. **And** thus had they fallen into this great transgression; yea, thus had they become weak, because of their transgression, in the space of not many years.