

& it came to pass that when the sixty & second year of the reign of the Judges had ended all these things had happened & the Lamanites had become the more part of them a righteous people insomuch that their righteousness did excede that of the Nephites because of their firmness & their stediness in the faith

for behold there were many of the Nephites which had become hardoned & impenitant & grossly wicked insomuch that they did reject the word of God & all the preaching & the prophesying which did come among them

nevertheless the people of the church did have great joy because of the conversion of the Lamanites yea because of the church of God which had been established among them & they did fellowship one with an other & did rejoice one with another & did have great joy

& it came to pass that **342** many of the Lamanites did come down into the land of Zarahemla & did declare unto the people of the Nephites the manner of their conversion & did exhort them to faith & repentance

yea & many did preach with excding great power & authority unto the bringing down many of them into the debths of humility to be the humble followers of God & of the Lamb

& it came to pass that many of the Lamanites did go into the land Northward & also Nephi & Lehi went into the land Northward to preach unto the people & thus ended the sixty & third year

& behold there was peace in all the land insomuch that the Nephites did go into whatsoever part of the land they would whether among the Nephites or the Lamanites

CHAPTER 6

The righteous Lamanites preach to the wicked Nephites—Both peoples prosper during an era of peace and plenty—Lucifer, the author of sin, stirs up the hearts of the wicked and the Gadianton robbers in murder and wickedness—The robbers take over the Nephite government. About 29–23 B.C.

¹**And** it came to pass that when the sixty **and** second year of the reign of the **j**udges had ended, all these things had happened **and** the Lamanites had become, the more part of them, a righteous people, insomuch that their righteousness did exceed that of the Nephites, because of their firmness **and** their **steadiness** in the faith.

²For behold, there were many of the Nephites **who** had become **hardened and impenitent and** grossly wicked, insomuch that they did reject the word of God **and** all the preaching **and [X]** prophesying which did come among them.

³Nevertheless, the people of the church did have great joy because of the conversion of the Lamanites, yea, because of the church of God, which had been established among them. **And** they did fellowship one with an **[_]other, and** did rejoice one with another, **and** did have great joy.

⁴**And** it came to pass that many of the Lamanites did come down into the land of Zarahemla, **and** did declare unto the people of the Nephites the manner of their conversion, **and** did exhort them to faith **and** repentance.

⁵Yea, **and** many did preach with **exceedingly** great power **and** authority, unto the bringing down many of them into the **depths** of humility, to be the humble followers of God **and [X]** the Lamb.

⁶**And** it came to pass that many of the Lamanites did go into the land **northward; and** also Nephi **and** Lehi went into the land **northward**, to preach unto the people. **And** thus ended the sixty **and** third year.

⁷**And** behold, there was peace in all the land, insomuch that the Nephites did go into whatsoever part of the land they would, whether among the Nephites or the Lamanites.

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& it came to pass that the Lamanites did also go whithersoever they would whether it were among the Lamanites or ^{among} the Nephites & thus they did have free intercourse one with another for to buy & to sell & to get gain according to their desire

& it came to pass that they became exceding rich both the Lamanites & the Nephites & they did have an exceding plenty of gold & of silver & of all manner of precious petals both in the land South & in the ~~land~~ land North

now the land South was called Lehi & the land North was called Mulek which was after the Son of Zedekiah for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land North & Lehi into the land south

& behold there was all manner of gold in both these lands & of Silver & of precious oar of every kind & there was also curious workmen which did work all kinds of oar & did refine it & thus they did become rich

they did raise grain in abundance both in the North & in the South & they did flourish exceedingly both in the north & in the South & they did multiply & wax exceding strong in the land & they did raise many flocks & heards yea many fatlings

behold their women did toil & spin & did make all manner of cloth of fine twined linnen & cloth of every kind to cloath their nakedness & thus the sixty & ~~forth~~ fourth year did pass away in peace

& in the sixty & fifth year they did also have great joy & peace ^{yea} much preaching & many prophecies concerning that which was to come & thus passed away the sixty & fifth year

& it came to pass that in the sixty & sixth year of the reign of the Judges behold Cezoram was murdered by an unknown hand as he sat upon the Judgmentseat & it came to pass that in the same year that his Son ^{which} had been appointed by the people in his stead was also murdered & thus ended the sixty & sixth year

& in the commencement of the sixty & seventh year the people began to grow exceding wicked again

⁸**And** it came to pass that the Lamanites did also go whithersoever they would, whether it were among the Lamanites or **among** the Nephites; **and** thus they did have free intercourse one with another, **[X]** to buy **and** to sell, **and** to get gain, according to their desire.

⁹**And** it came to pass that they became exceedingly rich, both the Lamanites **and** the Nephites; **and** they did have an exceeding plenty of gold, **and** of silver, **and** of all manner of precious metals, both in the land south **and** in the **[X]** land north.

¹⁰**Now** the land south was called Lehi, **and** the land north was called Mulek, which was after the son of Zedekiah; for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land north, **and** Lehi into the land south.

¹¹**And** behold, there was all manner of gold in both these lands, **and** of silver, **and** of precious ore of every kind; **and** there were also curious workmen, **who** did work all kinds of ore **and** did refine it; **and** thus they did become rich.

¹²**T**hey did raise grain in abundance, both in the north **and** in the south; **and** they did flourish exceedingly, both in the north **and** in the south. **And** they did multiply **and** wax exceedingly strong in the land. **And** they did raise many flocks **and** he[]rds, yea, many fatlings.

¹³**B**ehold their women did toil **and** spin, **and** did make all manner of cloth, of fine-twined lin[]en **and** cloth of every kind, to clothe their nakedness. **And** thus the sixty **and** [_ _ _ _] fourth year did pass away in peace.

¹⁴**And** in the sixty **and** fifth year they did also have great joy **and** peace, []yea[_], much preaching **and** many prophecies concerning that which was to come. **And** thus passed away the sixty **and** fifth year.

¹⁵**And** it came to pass that in the sixty **and** sixth year of the reign of the judges, behold, Cezoram was murdered by an unknown hand as he sat upon the judgment-seat. **And** it came to pass that in the same year, that his son, **who** had been appointed by the people in his stead, was also murdered. **And** thus ended the sixty **and** sixth year.

¹⁶**And** in the commencement of the sixty **and** seventh year the people began to grow exceedingly wicked again.

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for behold the Lord had blessed them so long with the riches of the world that they had not been stired up to anger to wars ^{nor}& to bloodsheds therefore they began to set their hearts upon their riches yea they began to seek to get gain that they might be lifted up one above another therefore they began to commit ~~see~~^{secret} murders & to rob & to plunder that they might get gain

& now behold those murderers & plunderers were a band which had been formed by Kishkumen & Gadianton & now it had come to pass that there were many even among the Nephites of Gadiantons band but behold they were more numerous among the more wicked part of the Lamanites & they were called Gadiantons ~~and~~ robbers & murderers

& it was they which did murder the Chief Judge Cezoram & his Son while in the Judgmentseat & behold they were not found

& now it came to pass that when the Lamanites **343** found that there were robbers among them they were exceeding sorrowful & they did use every means whatsoever was in their power to destroy them off the face of the earth

but behold Satan did stir up the hearts of the more parts of the Nephites insomuch that they did unites with those bands of robbers & did enter into their covenants & their oaths that they would protect & preserve one another inwhatsoever difficult circumstances they should be placed in that they should not suffer for their murders & their plunderings & their stealings

& it came to pass that they did have their signs yea their secret signs & their secret words & this that they might ~~diste~~^{distinguish} ~~in~~ a brother who had entered into the covenant that whatsoever wickedness his brother should do he should not be injured by his brother nor ^{by} those who did belong to his band who had taken this covenant

& thus they might murder & plunder & steal & commit horedoms & all manner of wickedness conterary to the laws of their country & also the laws of their God

¹⁷For behold, the Lord had blessed them so long with the riches of the world that they had not been stirred up to anger, to wars, **nor[X]** to bloodshed[]; therefore they began to set their hearts upon their riches; yea, they began to seek to get gain that they might be lifted up one above another; therefore they began to commit [_ _]**secret**[_ _] murders, **and** to rob **and** to plunder, that they might get gain.

¹⁸**And** now behold, those murderers **and** plunderers were a band **who** had been formed by Kishkumen **and** Gadianton. **And** now it had come to pass that there were many, even among the Nephites, of Gadianton's band. **But** behold, they were more numerous among the more wicked part of the Lamanites. **And** they were called Gadianton's [_ _] robbers **and** murderers.

¹⁹**And** it was they **who** did murder the **chief judge** Cezoram, **and** his son, while in the **judgment-seat**; **and** behold, they were not found.

²⁰**And** now it came to pass that when the Lamanites found that there were robbers among them they were **exceedingly** sorrowful; **and** they did use every means **[X_X]** in their power to destroy them off the face of the earth.

²¹**But** behold, Satan did stir up the hearts of the more part[] of the Nephites, insomuch that they did unite[] with those bands of robbers, **and** did enter into their covenants **and** their oaths, that they would protect **and** preserve one another in[] whatsoever difficult circumstances they should be placed **[X]**, that they should not suffer for their murders, **and** their plunderings, **and** their stealings.

²²**And** it came to pass that they did have their signs, yea, their secret signs, **and** their secret words; **and** this that they might [_ _ _ _]**distinguish**[_] [_] a brother who had entered into the covenant, that whatsoever wickedness his brother should do he should not be injured by his brother, nor **[X] by** those who did belong to his band, who had taken this covenant.

²³**And** thus they might murder, **and** plunder, **and** steal, **and** commit **whoredoms** **and** all manner of wickedness, cont[]rary to the laws of their country **and** also the laws of their God.

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& whosoever of those which belonged to their band should reveal unto the world of their wickedness & their abominations should be tried not according to the laws of their country but according to the laws of their wickedness which had been given by Gadianton & Kishkumen

now behold it is these secret oaths & covenants which Alma commended his Son should not go forth unto the world lest they should be a means of bringing down the people unto destruction

now behold those ~~se~~^{secret}~~ered~~ oaths & covenants did not come forth unto Gadianton from the records which were delivered unto Helaman but behold they were put into the heart of Gadianton by that same being who did entice our first parents to partake of the forbidden fruit

yea that same being who did plot with Cain that if he would murder his brother Abel it should not be known unto the world & he did plot with Cain & his followers from that time forth

& also it is that same being who put it into the hearts of the people to build a Tower sufficiently high that they might get to Heaven & it was that same being which lead on the people which came from that Tower into this land which spread the works of darkness & abominations over all the face of the land until he dragged the people down to an entire destruction & to an everlasting Hell

yea it is that same being who put it into the heart of Gadianton to still carry on the work of darkness & of secret murder & he hath brought it forth from the beginning of man even down to this time

& behold it is he which is the author if all sin & behold he doth carry on his works of darkness & secret murder & doth hand down their plots & their oaths & their covenants & their plans of awful wickedness from generation to generation according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men

& now behold he had got great hold upon the hearts of the Nephites yea insomuch that they had become exceeding wicked yea the more part of them had turned out of the way of righteousness & did trample under their feet **344** the commandments of God & did turn unto their own ways & did build up unto themselves Idols of ^{their} gold & ~~of~~^{their} Silver

²⁴**And** whosoever of those **who** belonged to their band should reveal unto the world of their wickedness **and** their abominations, should be tried, not according to the laws of their country, but according to the laws of their wickedness, which had been given by Gadianton **and** Kishkumen.

²⁵Now behold, it is these secret oaths **and** covenants which Alma comm~~anded~~^{anded} his ~~son~~^{son} should not go forth unto the world, lest they should be a means of bringing down the people unto destruction.

²⁶Now behold, those [_]~~secret~~[_ _ _] oaths **and** covenants did not come forth unto Gadianton from the records which were delivered unto Helaman; but behold, they were put into the heart of Gadianton by that same being who did entice our first parents to partake of the forbidden fruit—

²⁷Yea, that same being who did plot with Cain, that if he would murder his brother Abel it should not be known unto the world. **And** he did plot with Cain **and** his followers from that time forth.

²⁸**And** also it is that same being who put it into the hearts of the people to build a **t**ower sufficiently high that they might get to **h**eaven. **And** it was that same being **who** le[_]d on the people **who** came from that **t**ower into this land; **who** spread the works of darkness **and** abominations over all the face of the land, until he dragged the people down to an entire destruction, **and** to an everlasting **h**ell.

²⁹Yea, it is that same being who put it into the heart of Gadianton to still carry on the work of darkness, **and** of secret murder; **and** he has[_] brought it forth from the beginning of man even down to this[_] time.

³⁰**And** behold, it is he **who** is the author of all sin. **And** behold, he doth carry on his works of darkness **and** secret murder, **and** doth hand down their plots, **and** their oaths, **and** their covenants, **and** their plans of awful wickedness, from generation to generation according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men.

³¹**And** now behold, he had got great hold upon the hearts of the Nephites; yea, insomuch that they had become exceedingly wicked; yea, the more part of them had turned out of the way of righteousness, **and** did trample under their feet the commandments of God, **and** did turn unto their own ways, **and** did build up unto themselves idols of **their** gold **and** [X] **their** silver.

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& it came to pass that all these iniquities did come unto them in the space of not many years insomuch that ~~the~~^a more part of it had come unto them in the sixty & seventh year of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi

& they did grow in their iniquities in the sixty & eighth year also to the great sorrow & lamentation of the righteous

& thus we see that the Nephites did begin to dwindle in unbelief & grow in wickedness & abominations while the Lamanites began to grow exceedingly in the knowledge of their God yea they did begin to keep his statutes & commandments & to walk in truth & uprightness before him

& thus we see that the spirit of the Lord began to withdraw from the Nephites because of the wickedness & the hardness of their hearts

& thus we see that the Lord began to pour out his spirit upon the Lamanites because of their easiness & willingness to believe in his words

& it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gadianton & they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from among the Lamanites

& it came to pass on the other hand that the Nephites did build them up & support them beginning at the more wicked part of them until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites & had ~~sue~~^{seduced}~~ed~~ the more part of the righteous until they had come down to believe in their works & partake of their spoils & to join with them in their secret murders & combinations

& thus they did obtain the sole management of the government insomuch that they did trample under their feet & smite & rend & turn their backs upon the poor & the meek & humble followers of God

& thus we see that they were in an awful state & ripening for an everlasting destruction

& it came to pass that thus ended the sixty & eighth year of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi—

³²**And** it came to pass that all these iniquities did come unto them in the space of not many years, insomuch that **[X] a** more part of it had come unto them in the sixty **and** seventh year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

³³**And** they did grow in their iniquities in the sixty **and** eighth year also, to the great sorrow **and** lamentation of the righteous.

³⁴**And** thus we see that the Nephites did begin to dwindle in unbelief, **and** grow in wickedness **and** abominations, while the Lamanites began to grow exceedingly in the knowledge of their God; yea, they did begin to keep his statutes **and** commandments, **and** to walk in truth **and** uprightness before him.

³⁵**And** thus we see that the **S**pirit of the Lord began to withdraw from the Nephites, because of the wickedness **and** the hardness of their hearts.

³⁶**And** thus we see that the Lord began to pour out his **S**pirit upon the Lamanites, because of their easiness **and** willingness to believe in his words.

³⁷**And** it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gadianton; **and** they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them, insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from among the Lamanites.

³⁸**And** it came to pass on the other hand, that the Nephites did build them up **and** support them, beginning at the more wicked part of them, until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites, **and** had **[_ _]seduced[_ _ _]** the more part of the righteous until they had come down to believe in their works **and** partake of their spoils, **and** to join with them in their secret murders **and** combinations.

³⁹**And** thus they did obtain the sole management of the govern**n**ment, insomuch that they did trample under their feet **and** smite **and** rend **and** turn their backs upon the poor **and** the meek, **and the** humble followers of God.

⁴⁰**And** thus we see that they were in an awful state, **and** ripening for an everlasting destruction.

⁴¹**And** it came to pass that thus ended the sixty **and** eighth year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi**[_]**.