

& it came to pass that after Mosiah had done as his father had commanded him & had made a proclamation throughout all the land that the People gathered themselves together throughout all the land that they might go up to the temple to hear the words which King Benjamin should speak unto them

& there were a great number even so many that they did not number them for they had multiplied exceedingly & waxed great in the land

& they also took of the firstlings of their flocks that they might offer sacrifice & burnt offerings according to the law of Moses

& also that they might give thanks to the Lord their God who had brought them out of the land of Jerusalem & who had delivered them out of the hands of their enemies & had appointed just men to be their teachers & also a just man to be their King who had established peace in the land of Zarahemla & who had taught them to keep the commandments of God that thereby they might rejoice & be filled with love towards God & all men

& it **119** came to pass that when they came up to the temple they pitched their tents round about every man according to his family consisting of his wife & his Sons & his daughters & their Sons & their daughters from the eldest down to the youngest every family ~~have~~<sup>being</sup> ~~sep~~ separate one from another

& they pitched their tents round about the temple every man haveing his tent with the door thereof towards the temple that thereby they might remain in their tents & hear the words which King Benjamin should speak unto them

~~for~~ for the multitude being so great that King Benjamin could not teach them all within the walls of the temple therefore he caused a tower to be erected that thereby his People might hear the words which he should speak unto them

## CHAPTER 2

*King Benjamin addresses his people—He recounts the equity, fairness, and spirituality of his reign—He counsels them to serve their Heavenly King—Those who rebel against God will suffer anguish like unquenchable fire. About 124 B.C.*

<sup>1</sup>**And** it came to pass that after Mosiah had done as his father had commanded him, **and** had made a proclamation throughout all the land, that the **people** gathered themselves together throughout all the land, that they might go up to the temple to hear the words which **king** Benjamin should speak unto them.

<sup>2</sup>**And** there were a great number, even so many that they did not number them; for they had multiplied exceedingly **and** waxed great in the land.

<sup>3</sup>**And** they also took of the firstlings of their flocks, that they might offer sacrifice **and** burnt offerings according to the law of Moses;

<sup>4</sup>**And** also that they might give thanks to the Lord their God, who had brought them out of the land of Jerusalem, **and** who had delivered them out of the hands of their enemies, **and** had appointed just men to be their teachers, **and** also a just man to be their **king**, who had established peace in the land of Zarahemla, **and** who had taught them to keep the commandments of God, that **[X]** they might rejoice **and** be filled with love towards God **and** all men.

<sup>5</sup>**And** it came to pass that when they came up to the temple, they pitched their tents round about, every man according to his family, consisting of his wife, **and** his sons, **and** his daughters, **and** their sons, **and** their daughters, from the eldest down to the youngest, every family **[ \_ \_ \_ \_ ]being[ \_ \_ ] [ \_ \_ ]** separate one from another.

<sup>6</sup>**And** they pitched their tents round about the temple, every man hav[ \_ ]ing his tent with the door thereof towards the temple, that thereby they might remain in their tents **and** hear the words which **king** Benjamin should speak unto them;

<sup>7</sup>**[ \_ \_ ] For** the multitude being so great that **king** Benjamin could not teach them all within the walls of the temple, therefore he caused a tower to be erected, that thereby his **people** might hear the words which he should speak unto them.

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& it came to pass that he began to speak to his People from the tower & they could not all hear his words because of the greatness of the multitude therefore he caused that the words which he spake should be written & sent forth among those that were not under the sound of his voice that they might also receive his words

& these are the words which he spake & caused to be written saying—My Brethren all ye that have assembled yourselves to gether you that can hear my words which I shall speak unto you this day for I have not commanded you to come up hither to trifle with the words which I shall speak but that you should hearken unto you & open your ears that ye may hear & your hearts that ye may understand & your minds that the mysteries of God may be unfolded to your view

I have not commanded you to come up hither that ye should fear me or that ye should think that I of myself am more than a mortal man

but I am like as yourselves subject to all manner of infirmities in body & mind yet as I have been chosen by this People & was consecrated by my father & was suffered by the hand of the Lord that I should be a ruler & a king over this People & have been kept & preserved by his matchless power to serve thee with all the might mind & strength which the Lord hath granted unto me

I say unto you that as I have been suffered to spend my days in your service even up to this time & have not sought gold nor silver nor no manner of riches of you

neither have I suffered that ye should be confined in dungeons nor that ye should make slaves one with another or that ye should murder or plunder or steel or commit adultery or even I have not suffered that ye should commit any manner of wickedness & have taught you that ye should keep the commandments of the Lord in all things which he hath commanded you

& even I myself have laboured with mine ~~own~~<sup>own</sup> hands that I might serve you & that ye should not be laden with taxes & that there should nothing come upon you which was grievous to bourne & of all these things which I have spoken ye yourselves are witnesses this day

<sup>8</sup>**And** it came to pass that he began to speak to his **people** from the tower; **and** they could not all hear his words because of the greatness of the multitude; therefore he caused that the words which he spake should be written **and** sent forth among those that were not under the sound of his voice, that they might also receive his words.

<sup>9</sup>**And** these are the words which he spake **and** caused to be written, saying:[ ]My **brethren**, all ye that have assembled yourselves to [ ]gether, you that can hear my words which I shall speak unto you this day; for I have not commanded you to come up hither to trifle with the words which I shall speak, but that you should hearken unto **me, and** open your ears that ye may hear, **and** your hearts that ye may understand, **and** your minds that the mysteries of God may be unfolded to your view.

<sup>10</sup>I have not commanded you to come up hither that ye should fear me, or that ye should think that I of myself am more than a mortal man.

<sup>11</sup>**But** I am like as yourselves, subject to all manner of infirmities in body **and** mind; yet [X] I have been chosen by this **people, and** [X] consecrated by my father, **and** was suffered by the hand of the Lord that I should be a ruler **and** a king over this **people; and** have been kept **and** preserved by his matchless power, to serve **you** with all the might, mind **and** strength which the Lord hath granted unto me.

<sup>12</sup>I say unto you that as I have been suffered to spend my days in your service, even up to this time, **and** have not sought gold nor silver nor **any** manner of riches of you;

<sup>13</sup>**Neither** have I suffered that ye should be confined in dungeons, nor that ye should make slaves one **of** another, **nor** that ye should murder, or plunder, or steal, or commit adultery; **nor** even [X] have I [X] suffered that ye should commit any manner of wickedness, **and** have taught you that ye should keep the commandments of the Lord, in all things which he hath commanded you—

<sup>14</sup>**And** even I, myself, have labo[ ]red with mine [ ]own[ ] hands that I might serve you, **and** that ye should not be laden with taxes, **and** that there should nothing come upon you which was griev[ ]ous to **be** bo[ ]rne—**and** of all these things which I have spoken, ye yourselves are witnesses this day.

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yet my Brethren I have not done these things that I might boast neither do I tell these things that thereby I ~~mi~~ might accuse you but I tell you these things that ye may know **120** that I <sup>can</sup> answer a clear conscience before God this day

behold I say unto you that because I said unto you that I had spent my days in your service I do not desire to boast for I have only been in the service of God

& behold I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God

behold ye have called me your king & if I whom ye call your king do labour to serve you then had not ye ought to labour to serve one another

& behold also if I who ye call your king who has spent his days in your service & yet hath been in the service of God doth merit any thanks from you O how had you ought to thank your heavenly King

I say unto you my Brethren that if you should render all the thanks & praise which your whole souls hath power to possess to that God who hath created you & hath kept & preserved you & hath caused that ye should rejoice & hath granted that ye should live in peace one with another

I say unto you that if ye should serve him who hath created you from the beginning & art preserveing you from day to day by lending you breath that ye may live & move & do according to your own will & even supporting you from one moment to another I say if ye should serve him with all your whole soul & yet ye would be unprofitable servants

& behold all that he requires of you is to keep his commandments & he hath promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land & he never doth vary from that which he hath said therefore if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you & prosper you

& now in the first place he hath created you & granted unto you your lives for which ye are in debted unto him

<sup>15</sup>Yet, my brethren, I have not done these things that I might boast, neither do I tell these things that thereby I [ \_ \_ ] might accuse you; but I tell you these things that ye may know that I **can** answer a clear conscience before God this day.

<sup>16</sup>Behold, I say unto you that because I said unto you that I had spent my days in your service, I do not desire to boast, for I have only been in the service of God.

<sup>17</sup>And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.

<sup>18</sup>Behold, ye have called me your king; and if I, whom ye call your king, do labo[ \_ ]r to serve you, then [X\_X\_X] ought **not ye** to labo[ \_ ]r to serve one another?

<sup>19</sup>And behold also, if I, whom ye call your king, who has spent his days in your service, and yet has[ \_ ] been in the service of God, do[ \_ \_ ] merit any thanks from you, O how [X] you ought to thank your heavenly King!

<sup>20</sup>I say unto you, my brethren, that if you should render all the thanks and praise which your whole soul[ \_ ] has[ \_ ] power to possess, to that God who has[ \_ ] created you, and has[ \_ ] kept and preserved you, and has[ \_ ] caused that ye should rejoice, and has[ \_ ] granted that ye should live in peace one with another—

<sup>21</sup>I say unto you that if ye should serve him who has[ \_ ] created you from the beginning, and is preserv[ \_ ]ing you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another— I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole souls [X] yet ye would be unprofitable servants.

<sup>22</sup>And behold, all that he requires of you is to keep his commandments; and he has[ \_ ] promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land; and he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you and prosper you.

<sup>23</sup>And now, in the first place, he hath created you, and granted unto you your lives, for which ye are in[ \_ ]debted unto him.

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& secondly he doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you for which if ye do he doth immediately bless you & therefore he hath paid you & ye are still in debted unto him & are & will be forever & ever therefore of what have ye to boast

& now I ask can ye say ought of yourselves I answer you nay ye cannot say that thou art even as mu<sup>t</sup>ch as the dust of the earth yet thou wast created of the dust of the earth but behold it belongeth to him who created ~~it~~ you

& I even I whom ye call your king am no better than ye yourselves are for I am also of the dust & thou beholdest that I am old & am about to yield up this mortal frame to its Mother earth

therefore as I said unto you that I had served you walking with a clear conscience before God even so I at this time<sup>have</sup> caused that ye should assemble yourselves together that I might be found blameless & that your blood should not come up on me when I shall stand to be Judged of God of the things whereof he hath commanded me concerning you

I say unto you that I have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together that I might rid my garments of your blood at this period of time when I am about to go down to my grave that I might go down in peace & my immortal spirit may join the choirs above in singing the praises of a Just God

& moreover I say unto you that I have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together that I might declare unto you that I can **[21]** no longer be your teacher nor your king

for even at this time my whole frame doth tremble exceedingly while attempting to speak unto you but the Lord God doth support me & hath suffered me that I should speak unto ~~me~~<sup>you</sup> & hath commanded me that I should declare unto you this day that my Son Mosiah <sup>is</sup>~~as~~ a king & a ruler over you

<sup>24</sup>**And** secondly, he doth require that ye should do as he hath commanded you; for which if ye do, he doth immediately bless you; **and** therefore he hath paid you. **And** ye are still in[\_]debted unto him, **and** are, **and** will be, forever **and** ever; therefore, of what have ye to boast?

<sup>25</sup>**And** now I ask, can ye say **ought** of yourselves? I answer you, **Nay**. **Ye** cannot say that **ye** are even as mu[\_]ch as the dust of the earth; yet **ye were** created of the dust of the earth; but behold, it belongeth to him who created **[X]** you.

<sup>26</sup>**And** I, even I, whom ye call your king, am no better than ye yourselves are; for I am also of the dust. **And ye** behold[\_ \_] that I am old, **and** am about to yield up this mortal frame to its **mother** earth.

<sup>27</sup>**Therefore**, as I said unto you that I had served you, walking with a clear conscience before God, even so I at this time **[ ]have** caused that ye should assemble yourselves together, that I might be found blameless, **and** that your blood should not come up[\_]on me, when I shall stand to be **j**udged of God of the things whereof he hath commanded me concerning you.

<sup>28</sup>I say unto you that I have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together that I might rid my garments of your blood, at this period of time when I am about to go down to my grave, that I might go down in peace, **and** my immortal spirit may join the choirs above in singing the praises of a **j**ust God.

<sup>29</sup>**And** moreover, I say unto you that I have caused that ye should assemble yourselves together, that I might declare unto you that I can no longer be your teacher, nor your king;

<sup>30</sup>**For** even at this time, my whole frame doth tremble exceedingly while attempting to speak unto you; but the Lord God doth support me, **and** hath suffered me that I should speak unto **[ ]you[ ]**, **and** hath commanded me that I should declare unto you this day, that my son Mosiah **is****[X]** a king **and** a ruler over you.

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& now my Brethren I would that ye should do as ye hath hitherto done as ye have kept my commandments & also the commandments of my father & have prospered & have been kept from falling into the hands of your enemies even so if ye shall keep the commandments of my Son or the commandments of God which shall be delivered unto ~~him~~<sup>you</sup> by ~~yo~~<sup>him</sup> ye shall prosper in the land & your enemies shall have no power over you

but O my People beware lest there shall arise contentions among you & ye list to obey the evil spirit which was spoken by my father Mosiah

for behold there is a wo ~~promised~~ pronounced upon him that listeth to obey that Spirit for if he listeth to obey him & remaineth & dieth in ~~hi~~<sup>his</sup> sins the same drinketh damntion to his own soul for he receiveth for his wages an everlasting punishment having transgressed the law of God conterary to his own knowledge

I say unto you that there are not one among you except it be your little Children that have not been taught concerning these things but what knoweth that ye are eternally indebted to your heavenly Father to render to him all that you have & are & also have been taught concerning the records which contain the prophesies which hath been spoken by the holy Prophets even down to the time our father Lehi left Jerusalem

& also all that hath been spoken by our fathers untill now & behold also they spoke that which was commanded them of the Lord therefore they are Just & true

& now I say unto you my Brethren that after ye have known & have been taught all these things if ye should transgress & go conterary to that which hath been spoken that ye do with draw yourselves from the spirit of the Lord that it may have no place in you to guide you in wisdoms paths that ye may be blessed prospered & preserved

I say unto you that the man that doeth these ~~things~~ the same cometh out in open rebellion against God therefore he listeth to obey the evil spirit & becometh an enemy to all righteousness therefore the Lord hath no place in him for he dwelleth not in unholy temples

<sup>31</sup>**And** now, my **brethren**, I would that ye should do as ye have hitherto done. **As** ye have kept my commandments, **and** also the commandments of my father, **and** have prospered, **and** have been kept from falling into the hands of your enemies, even so if ye shall keep the commandments of my **son**, or the commandments of God which shall be delivered unto **[X]you** by **[ ]him[ ]**, ye shall prosper in the land, **and** your enemies shall have no power over you.

<sup>32</sup>**But**, O my **people**, beware lest there shall arise contentions among you, **and** ye list to obey the evil spirit, which was spoken **of** by my father Mosiah.

<sup>33</sup>**F**or behold, there is a wo **[X]**pronounced upon him **who** listeth to obey that **spirit**; for if he listeth to obey him, **and** remaineth **and** dieth in **[ ]his[ ]** sins, the same drinketh **damnation** to his own soul; for he receiveth for his wages an everlasting punishment, having transgressed the law of God **cont[ ]rary** to his own knowledge.

<sup>34</sup>I say unto you, that there are not **any** among you, except it be your little **children** that have not been taught concerning these things, but what knoweth that ye are eternally indebted to your heavenly Father, to render to him all that you have **and are**; **and** also have been taught concerning the records which contain the **prophecies** which **have** been spoken by the holy **prophets**, even down to the time our father, Lehi, left Jerusalem;

<sup>35</sup>**And** also, all that has~~[ ]~~ been spoken by our fathers until~~[ ]~~ now. **And** behold, also, they **spake** that which was commanded them of the Lord; therefore, they are **just and** true.

<sup>36</sup>**And** now, I say unto you, my **brethren**, that after ye have known **and** have been taught all these things, if ye should transgress **and** go **cont[ ]rary** to that which has~~[ ]~~ been spoken, that ye do with~~[ ]~~ draw yourselves from the **Spirit** of the Lord, that it may have no place in you to guide you in wisdom's paths that ye may be blessed, prospered, **and** preserved—

<sup>37</sup>I say unto you, that the man that doeth **this [X]**, the same cometh out in open rebellion against God; therefore he listeth to obey the evil spirit, **and** becometh an enemy to all righteousness; therefore, the Lord has~~[ ]~~ no place in him, for he dwelleth not in unholy temples.

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therefore if that man repent<sup>eth</sup> not & remaineth & dieth an enemy to God the demands of divine Justice doth awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt which doth cause him to shrink from the presance of the Lord & doth fill his breast with guilt & pain & anguish which is like an unquenchable fire whose flames ascendeth up forever & ever

& now I say unto you that mercy hath no claim on that man therefore his final doom is to endure a never ending torment

O all ye old men & also ye young men & you little children which can understand my words for I have spoken plain unto you that ye might understand I pray that ye should **122** awake to a remembrance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression

& moreover I would desire that ye should consider on the ~~blest~~ blessed & hapy state of those that keep the commandments of God for behold they are blessed in all things both temporal & spiritual & if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into ~~the~~ heaven that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of neverending happiness O remember remember that these things are true for the Lord God hath spoken it

<sup>38</sup> Therefore if that man repent~~eth~~ not, **and** remaineth **and** dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine **j**justice do[\_ \_] awaken his immortal soul to a lively sense of his own guilt, which doth cause him to shrink from the **pre**sence of the Lord, **and** doth fill his breast with guilt, **and** pain, **and** anguish, which is like an unquenchable fire, whose flame[\_ \_] ascendeth up forever **and** ever.

<sup>39</sup> **And** now I say unto you, that mercy hath no claim on that man; therefore his final doom is to endure a never-ending torment.

<sup>40</sup> O, all ye old men, **and** also ye young men, **and** you little children **who** can understand my words, for I have spoken plain~~ly~~ly unto you that ye might understand, I pray that ye should awake to a rememb[\_ \_]rance of the awful situation of those that have fallen into transgression.

<sup>41</sup> **And** moreover, I would desire that ye should consider on the [\_ \_ \_ \_] blessed **and** happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. **F**or behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal **and** spiritual; **and** if they hold out faithful to the end they are received into [**X**\_ \_] heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God in a state of never-ending happiness. O remember, remember that these things are true; for the Lord God hath spoken it.