

now when Mosiah had Done this he sent out through all the land among all the people Desiring ~~them~~ to know their will concerning who Should be their King

and it came pass that the voice of the people came Saying wee are Desireous that Aaron thy Son Should Be our king and our ruler

now Aaron had gone up to the land of nephi therefore the king could not confer the kingdom upon him neither was any of the Sons of Mosiah willing to take upon them the kingdom

therefore king Mosiah Sent again among the people yea even a ~~writ~~ written word Sent he a Among the people and these were the words that were ~~writ~~ witten **166** Saying

Behold O ye my people or my Bretheren for I esteem you as such for I Desire that ye Should consider the cause which ye are called to consider for ye ar Desireous to have a king

now I Declair unto you that he to whom that the kingdom Doth wrightly Belong hath Declared And will not take upon him the kingdom

and now if their should Be another appointed ~~I~~ in his stead Behold I fear their would rise comtentions Among ~~the~~ you~~r~~ and who knoweth But what my Sons to whom the kingdom Doth Belong Should ~~not~~ turn to Be A^{angry}nd Draw a way a part of this people after him which will cause ~~w~~ wars & contentions among you~~r~~ which would Be the cause of shedding mutch Blood And perverting the way of the Lord yea and Destroy the Souls of mtch people

Now I Say unto you let us be wise and consider these things for wee have no wri^ght to Destroy my Son neither Should wee have any wright to Destroy an other if he Should Be appointed in his Stead

CHAPTER 29

Mosiah proposes that judges be chosen in place of a king—Unrighteous kings lead their people into sin—Alma the younger is chosen chief judge by the voice of the people—He is also the high priest over the Church—Alma the elder and Mosiah die. About 92–91 B.C.

¹Now when Mosiah had **done** this he sent out through**out** all the land, among all the people, **desir[]ing [X]** to know their will concerning who should be their **king**.

²And it came **to** pass that the voice of the people came, **saying: We[] are desir[]ous** that Aaron thy **son should be** our king and our ruler.

³Now Aaron had gone up to the land of **Nephi**, therefore the king could not confer the kingdom upon him; **neither would Aaron take upon him the kingdom**; neither **were** any of the **sons** of Mosiah willing to take upon them the kingdom.

⁴Therefore king Mosiah **sent** again among the people; yea, even a [_ _ _ _] written word **sent** he [] among the people. **And** these were the words that were [_ _] **written, saying:**

⁵Behold, O ye my people, or my **breth[]ren**, for I esteem you as such, **[X] I desire** that ye **should** consid[]er the cause which ye[] are called to consid[]er—for ye **are desir[]ous** to have a king.

⁶Now I **declare** unto you that he to who[]m **[X]** the kingdom **doth []rightly belong** has[] **declined, and** will not take upon him the kingdom.

⁷And now if **there** should **be** another appointed [] in his stead, **behold** I fear **there** would rise **contentions** among **[X] you[]**. **And** who knoweth **but** what my **son[]**, to who[]m the kingdom **doth** belong, should [_] turn to **be []angry[_] and** draw a [_]way a part of this people after him, which **would** cause [] wars **and** contentions among you[], which would **be** the cause of shedding mu[]ch **blood and** perverting the way of the Lord, yea, and **destroy** the **souls** of **many** people.

⁸Now I **say** unto you let us be wise and consid[]er these things, for we[] have no []right to **destroy** my **son**, neither **should** we[] have any []right to **destroy** an []other if he **should be** appointed in his **stead**.

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and if ^mmy Son Should turn again to his pride and vain things he would recall the things which he had Said and claim his right to the kingdom which would cause him and also this ~~to comit~~ people to commit much Sin

and now let us Be wise and look forward to these things and Doo that which will make for the peace of this people

therefore I will Be your king the remainder of my Days nevertheless let us ~~acquaint apoi~~ Appoint Judges to Judge this people according to our law and wee will newly arange the affairs of this people for we will appoint wise men to Be Judges that will Judge this people according to the commandments of ~~the Lord~~ god

now it is Better that a man Should Be Judged of god than of man for the Judgements of god are always Just but the Judgements of ~~de~~ not man are not always Just

therefore if it was possible that ye Could have Just men to be your ~~Judges~~ kings which would establish the laws of god and Judge this people accordeng ^ohis commandments yea if ye could have men for your kings which would Do even as my father Benjamin Did for this people I say unto you if this could ~~de~~ allway Be the Case then it would Be exp^dient that ye sould allway^e have kings to rule over you

and Even I my self have laboured with all the power and ~~facu~~ of **167** faculties which I have possessed to teach you the Commandments of god and to Establish peace through out the land that their Should Be no wars nor Contentions no Stealling nor plundering nor murdering nor no manner of anniqity

and whosoever hath Committid aniqity him have I punished according to the Crime which he hath Committed according to the law which hath been given to us by our farthers

now I say unto you that because all men are not Just it is not Expedient that ye Should ha^ev a king or kings to rule over you

for behold how muthch iniqity Doth one wicked king Case to be Committed yea and what greate Destruction

⁹And if **my son** should turn again to his pride and vain things he would recall the things which he had **said**, and claim his right to the kingdom, which would cause him and also this people to commit much **sin**.

¹⁰And now let us **be** wise and look forward to these things, and **do** that which will make for the peace of this people.

¹¹Therefore I will **be** your king the remainder of my **days**; nevertheless, let us appoint **judges**, to **judge** this people according to our law; and we will newly **arr**ange the affairs of this people, for we will appoint wise men to **be judges**, that will **judge** this people according to the commandments of **God**.

¹²Now it is **better** that a man **should be judged** of **God** than of man, for the **judg**ments of **God** are always **just**, but the **judg**ments of man are not always **just**.

¹³Therefore, if it **were** possible that **you** could have **just** men to be your **kings**, **who** would establish the laws of **God**, and **judge** this people according **to** his commandments, yea, if ye could have men for your kings **who** would **do** even as my father Benjamin **did** for this people—I say unto you, if this could always **be** the **case** then it would **be** exp^dient that ye **should** always have kings to rule over you.

¹⁴And **even** I myself have labored with all the power and **facu**lties which I have possessed, to teach you the **commandments** of **God**, and to **establish** peace throughout the land, that **there** **should be** no wars nor **contentions**, no **steal**ing, nor plundering, nor murdering, nor **any** manner of **in**iquity;

¹⁵And whosoever has committed **iniquity**, him have I punished according to the **crime** which he has committed, according to the law which has been given to us by our fathers.

¹⁶Now I say unto you, that because all men are not **just** it is not **expedient** that ye **should have** a king or kings to rule over you.

¹⁷For behold, how much **iniquity** doth one wicked king **cause** to be **committed**, yea, and what great **destruction**!

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yea remmbering N^oah his wickedness
and his abominations and also the wickedness and
abominations of his people behold what great
Distruccion Did Come upon them and also because
of their Eniquities they were braught into bondage

and were it not for the iterposition of they
allwise Creator and this because of their Cinsere
ripentance thou must unavoidably remain in
bondage util now,

but behold he did deliver them bcause they
~~did~~ did humble themself before him &
they cryed mightily unto him he did
deliver them out of bondage & thus doth the
Lord work with his Power in all cases among the
children of men extending the arm of mercy
towards them that put their trust in him,

& behold, now I say unto you yea cannot
death remove an iniquitous King save it be
through much contention & the shedding of
much blood,

for bhold he hath his friends in iniquity &
he keepeth his guards about him and he tearth up
the Laws of those which have reigned in
righteousness before him & he trampleth
under his feet the commandments of God

& he enacteth Laws & sendeth them forth
among his people, yea Laws after ^{the} manner of his
own wickedness & whosoever doth not obey his
Laws he causeth to be destroyed & whosoever
doth rebel against him he will send his armies
against them to war & if he can he will destroy
them & thus an unrighteous King doth pervert
the ways of all righteousness.

And now behold I say unto you it is not expedient
that such abominations should come upon you

therefore choose you by the voice of the people
Judges that ye may be Judged according to the Laws
which hath been given you by our^t Fathers which
are correct & which was given them by the hand
of the Lord,

now it is not common that the voice of the poeple
desireth anything contrary to that which is right
but it is common for the lesser part of the people to
desire that which is not right, therefore this shall ye
observe & make it your law to do your business
by the voice of the people

¹⁸Yea, remember [_ _] king Noah, his wickedness
and his abominations, and also the wickedness and
abominations of his people. Behold what great [_]
destruction did come upon them; and also because
of their iniqui[_]ties they were brought into bondage.

¹⁹And were it not for the interposition of their
all-wise Creator, and this because of their sincere
repentance, they must unavoidably remain in
bondage until now.

²⁰But behold, he did deliver them because they
[_ _ _] did humble themselves before him; and
because they cried mightily unto him he did
deliver them out of bondage; and thus doth the
Lord work with his power in all cases among the
children of men, extending the arm of mercy
towards them that put their trust in him.

²¹And behold, now I say unto you, ye [_] cannot
de[_]thron[e] [X] an iniquitous king save it be
through much contention, and the shedding of
much blood.

²²For behold, he has [_] his friends in iniquity, and
he keepeth his guards about him; and he tearth up
the laws of those who have reigned in
righteousness before him; and he trample [_]th
under his feet the commandments of God;

²³And he enacteth laws, and sendeth them forth
among his people, yea, laws after the manner of his
own wickedness; and whosoever doth not obey his
laws he causeth to be destroyed; and whosoever
doth rebel against him he will send his armies
against them to war, and if he can he will destroy
them; and thus an unrighteous king doth pervert
the ways of all righteousness.

²⁴And now behold I say unto you, it is not expedient
that such abominations should come upon you.

²⁵Therefore, choose you by the voice of this people,
judges, that ye may be judged according to the laws
which have been given you by our [_] fathers, which
are correct, and which were given them by the hand
of the Lord.

²⁶Now it is not common that the voice of the people
desireth anything contrary to that which is right;
but it is common for the lesser part of the people to
desire that which is not right; therefore this shall ye
observe and make it your law—to do your business
by the voice of the people.

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& if the **168** time comeeth that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity then is the time that the Judgments of God will come upon you yea then is the time he will visit you with great destruction even as he hath hitherto visited this land

and now if ye have Judges & they do not Judge you according to the law which has been given ye can cause that he may be Judged of a higher Judge

if your hier Judges Doth not Judge righteous Judgements yea Shall cause that a Small number of your lower Judges Should be gathered to gether and they Shall Judg[e] ~~hie~~ your hier Judges according to the ~~€~~ voice of the people

& I Commanded you to Do these thing in the fear of the lord & I Commanded you to Do these things & that ye have no king that if these people Commit Sins and iniquity they Shall be answered upon thier own heads

for behold I Say unto you the Sins of many poople have been Causd by the Eniquities of their kings therefore ~~their~~ their Eniquities are answered upon the heads of their kings

and now I desire that this ~~people~~ unequallity Should be no more is this land Espesally among this my people but I Desire that this land be a land of liberty and Every man may Enjoy his wrights and priveleiges alike so long as the lord Seas fit that wee may live and iherit the land yea Even as long as any of our posterity remaineth upon the face of the land

and many more things Did king Mosiah wrte unt them unfolding unto them all the treyals and troubals a righto^us king yea all the travels of Soul for their people and also all the murmerings of the people to their king and he Explained it all unto them

and he told them that these things had not ought to be but that the burden Should Come upon all the people that Every man might bear his part

and he also unfolded unto them all the disdvantages they ~~shoud~~ laboured under by having an unrighteous King to rule over them

²⁷And if the time comes[] that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you; yea, then is the time he will visit you with great destruction even as he has[] hitherto visited this land.

²⁸And now if ye have judges, and they do not judge you according to the law which has been given, ye can cause that they may be judged of a higher judge.

²⁹If your higher judges do[] not judge righteous judg[]ments, ye[] shall cause that a small number of your lower judge[]s should be gathered to[]gether, and they shall jud[]ge [] your higher judge[]s, according to the [] voice of the people.

³⁰And I command[] you to do these things in the fear of the Lord; and I command[] you to do these things, and that ye have no king; that if these people commit sins and iniquities they shall be answered upon their own heads.

³¹For behold I say unto you, the sins of many people have been caused by the iniquities of their kings; therefore [X] their iniquities are answered upon the heads of their kings.

³²And now I desire that this [X] inequa[]lity should be no more in this land, especially among this my people; but I desire that this land be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his []rights and privile[]ges alike, so long as the Lord sees fit that we[] may live and inherit the land, yea, even as long as any of our posterity remains[] upon the face of the land.

³³And many more things did king Mosiah write unto them, unfolding unto them all the tri[]als and troubles of a righteous king, yea, all the travails of soul for their people, and also all the murmurings of the people to their king; and he explained it all unto them.

³⁴And he told them that these things [X] ought not to be; but that the burden should come upon all the people, that every man might bear his part.

³⁵And he also unfolded unto them all the disadvantages they [X] labo[]red under, by having an unrighteous king to rule over them;

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yea all his iniquities & abominations and all the wars and Contentions and blood shed and the stealing and the plundering, and the committing of whoredoms and all manner of iniquities which cannot be innumrated telling them that these things aught not to be that they was expressly repugnant to the command ments of God.

And now it came to pass aftir King Mosiah had sent these things forth among the people the were convinced of the truth of his words

therefore they relinquished their desires for a King and became exceedingly anxious that every man should have an equal chance throughout all the land yea & every man exprest a willingness to answer for his own sins,

therefore it came to pass that they assembled themselves together in bodies throughout the land to cast in their voices concerning **169** who should be their Judges to Judge them according to the Law which had been given them & they were exceedingly rejoiced because of the liberty which had been granted unto them

& they did wax strong in love towards Mosiah yea they did esteem him more than any other man for they did not look upon him as a Tyrant who was seeking for gain yea for that luker which doth corrupt the Soul for he had not exacted Riches of them neither had he delighted in shedding of blood but he had established Peace in the land & he had granted unto his people that they should be deliver^ed from all manner of bondage. therefore they did esteem him yea exceedingly beyond measure.

And it came to pass that they did appoint Judges to rule over them or to Judges them according to the law & this they done throughout all the land.

And it came to pass that Alma was appointed to be the Chief Judge he being also the High Priest his Father having confere^d the office upon him & had given him the charge concerning all the offairs of the church,

and now it came to pass ~~that~~ that Alma did walk in the ways of the Lord & he did keep his commandments & he did Judge righteous Judgments & there was continual Peace through the land

³⁶Yea, all his iniquities **and** abominations, and all the wars, and **contentions**, and blood^[]shed, and the stealing, and the plundering, and the committing of whoredoms, and all manner of iniquities which cannot be **en^[]umerated**—telling them that these things **ought** not to be, that they **were** expressly repugnant to the command^[]ments of God.

³⁷And now it came to pass, **after** king Mosiah had sent these things forth among the people they were convinced of the truth of his words.

³⁸Therefore they relinquished their desires for a **king**, and became exceedingly anxious that every man should have an equal chance throughout all the land; yea, **and** every man expressed a willingness to answer for his own sins.

³⁹Therefore, it came to pass that they assembled themselves together in bodies throughout the land, to cast in their voices concerning who should be their **judges**, to **judge** them according to the **law** which had been given them; **and** they were exceedingly rejoiced because of the liberty which had been granted unto them.

⁴⁰**And** they did wax strong in love towards Mosiah; yea, they did esteem him more than any other man; for they did not look upon him as a **tyrant** who was seeking for gain, yea, for that **lucre** which doth corrupt the **soul**; for he had not exacted **riches** of them, neither had he delighted in **the** shedding of blood; but he had established **peace** in the land, **and** he had granted unto his people that they should be deliver^ed from all manner of bondage; therefore they did esteem him, yea, exceedingly, beyond measure.

⁴¹And it came to pass that they did appoint **judges** to rule over them, or to **judge^[]** them according to the law; **and** this they **did** throughout all the land.

⁴²And it came to pass that Alma was appointed to be the **first chief judge**, he being also the **high priest**, his **father** having confer^{red} the office upon him, **and having** given him the charge concerning all the **affairs** of the church.

⁴³**And** now it came to pass **[X]** that Alma did walk in the ways of the Lord, **and** he did keep his commandments, **and** he did **judge** righteous **judgments**; **and** there was continual **peace** through the land.

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& thus commenced the Reign of the Judges throughout all the land of Zarahemla among all the people which was called the Nephites, And Alma⁴ was the first & Chief Judge.

And now it came to pass that his Father Died being Eighty and two years old having lived to fulfill the commandments of God.

And It came to pass ~~that~~ that Mosiah died also in the thirty & third year of his Reign being sixty and three years, making in the whole Five Hundred & Nine years from the time Lehi left Jerusalem,

And thus Ended the Reign of the Kings over the people of Nephi, and this ended the days of Alma who was the founder of their Church

⁴⁴And thus commenced the **reign** of the **judges** throughout all the land of Zarahemla, among all the people **who were** called the Nephites; **and** Alma⁴ was the first **and chief judge**.

⁴⁵And now it came to pass that his **father died**, being **eighty** and two years old, having lived to fulfill⁴ the commandments of God.

⁴⁶And **it** came to pass **[X]** that Mosiah died also, in the thirty **and** third year of his **reign**, being sixty and three years **old**; making in the whole, **five hundred and nine** years from the time Lehi left Jerusalem.

⁴⁷And thus **ended** the **reign** of the **kings** over the people of Nephi; **and thus** ended the days of Alma, who was the founder of their **church**.