

Alma 53

¹& it came to pass that they did set guards over the Prisoners of the Lamanites
& did compel them to go forth & bury their dead
yea & also the dead of the Nephites which were slain
& Moroni placed men over them to guard them
whilsts they should perform their labours

²& Moroni went to the ¹city of Mulek with Lehi
& took command of the city & gave it unto Lehi
now behold this Lehi was a man who had been with Moroni in the more part of all his Battles
& he was a man like unto Moroni
& they rejoiced in each others safety
yea & they were beloved by each other
& also beloved by all the people of Nephi

³& it came to pass that
after the Lamanites had finished burying their dead
& also the dead of the Nephites
they were marched back into the land Bountiful
& Teancum by the orders of Moroni caused
that they should commence in labouring
in digging a ditch around about the land or the city Bountiful
⁴& he caused that they should build a breast work of timbers
upon the inner bank of the ditch
& they cast up dirt out of the ditch against the breast work of timbers
& thus they did cause the Lamanites to labour
until they had encircled the City of Bountiful around about
with a strong wall of timbers & earth to an exceeding height

⁵& this City became an exceeding strong hold & ever after
& in this city they did guard the Prisoners of the Lamanites
yea even within a wall which they had caused them to build with their own hands
now Moroni was compelled to cause the Lamanites to labour
because it were easy to guard them while at their labour
& he desired all his forces when he should make an attack upon the Lamanites

⁶& it came to pass that Moroni had thus gained a victory
over one of the greatest of the armies of the Lamanites
& had obtained possession of the city of Mulek
which was one of the strongest holds of the Lamanites on the land of Nephi
& thus he had also built a strong hold to retain these Prisoners

¹ OM Header = Moroni Causes the Lamanite
city Bountiful

⁷& it came to pass that
he did no more attempt a Battle with the Lamanites en that year
but he dit employ his men in preparing for war
yea & in makeing fortifications to guard against the Lamanites
yea & also delivering therr women & therr ~~Chi~~ children from famine & affliction
& proveding food for them armees

⁸& now it came to pass that the armies of the Lamanites on the ~~Se~~ west Sea South
while in the absence of Moroni
on account of some intreague amongst the ~~Lamanites~~ Nephites
which caused dissensions amongst them
had gaened some ground over the Nephites
yea insomuch that they had obtained fœosssion
of a numler of therr Cities in that part of the land

⁹& thus because of iniquity amongst themselves
yee because ^{of} desensions & intreague among themselves
they were plased in ~~an~~ the most ~~gen~~^{dangerous} ~~erous~~ cercunsstances

¹⁰& now behold I thave some what to say concerning the People of ~~M~~ Ammon
which in the beginning were Lamanites
but by Amoon & his Brethrem
or rather by the power & word of God
they had been co^{nverted unto the Lord & 2}

& they had been brought down into the land of Zararemla
& had ever since been protected by the Nephites

¹¹& because of their oath
they ~~d~~ had been kept from taking up arms against their brethreen
~~& w~~ for they had taken an oath that they never would shed blood more
& accordeng to their oath they would have perished
yea they would have suffered themselves
to have fallen into the hands of their brethren
had it not been for the pity & the excedeng love
which Ammon & his brethren had had for them

¹²& for thes caught they were brought down into the land of Zarahemla
& they ever had been proceched by the Nephites

¹³but it came to pass that
when they saw the danger & the many afflictions & doribulations
which the Nephites ~~d~~^{bore} ~~id~~ for them
they were moved with compassion
& were desireous to take up arms in the defence of their country

¹⁴but behold as they were about to take their weapons of war
they were overpowered by the perswasiors of Helaman & his brethren
for they were about to brake the oath which they had made

² OM Header = hites take up arms in defence of
tes & C

¹⁵& Helaman feared lest by so doing they should loose their souls therefore all those which had entered into this covenant were compeled be behold their Brethren wade through their afflictions in their dangerous cercumstances at this time

¹⁶but behold it came to pass they had many Sons which had not entered into a covenant that they would not take their weopons of war to depend themselves against ther enemies therefore they did assemble thenselves totether ot thes time as many as were able to take up arms & they called thenselves Nephites

¹⁷& they entered into a covenants to feight for the leberty of the Nephetes yea to protect the land unto the laying down of their leves yea even they covenanted that they never would give up therr liberty but they would fight in all cases to protect the Nephites & themselves from bongage

¹⁸now behold there were two thousand of those young men which entered into thes covenant & took their weapons of war to defend their country

¹⁹& now behold as they never had ~~th~~ hithento be^em a disadvantage to the Mephites they became now ot thes perioo of time allso a great support for they took there weapons of war & they would that Helaman should be ther leader

²⁰& they were all yong men & they were exceding valiont for courage & allo for strength & activety but behold this was not all they were mem which were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted

²¹yea they were men of thruth & soberness for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God & to walk up rightly before hem

²²& now it came to pass that Helamen did march at the head of his two ~~hu~~ thousand striplengs soldiers to the support of the People³ in the Borders of the Land on the South by the west Sea

²³& thus ended the twenty^{& ei}ghth year of the Reign of the gudges over^tthe People of Nephi &c.

³ OM Header = Moroni sends ar Epistle