

A lma 56

Chipter

¹And now it came to pass
in the commenc^ement of the thirtyeth yea^r of the reign of the Judges
on the second day on the first month
Moroni received an Epistle from Helaman
stateeng the affairs of the People in that quarter of the land
²& these are the words which he wrote sayeng
my dearly beloved Brother Moroni
as wall en the Lord as in the tiibulations of aur warfare
behold my beloved Brothes I have some whatt to tell you
concerneng our warfare en this part of the land
³behold twethousand of the Sons of these men
whch Ammon brought down out of the lard of Nephi
now ye have known that these were a desendant of Laman
thech was the eldest Son of arer Father Lehe
⁴now I knead not rehearse unto you concerneng there traditions or their unlebief
for thou knowest concerning all these things
⁵therefore it supfeceth me that I tell you
that t̄o two thousand of these mounḡ men hath taken their weopons of war
& would that I should be their leader
& we have come fourth fo defend our country

⁶& now ye also know concerneng the covenatt which their Fathers made
that they would not take up their weopons of war
agaerst therr Brethren to shed blood
⁷but in the twenty & sex year
when they saw our afflictions & our tribulations for them
they were about to brake the covenant which they had made
& take up their weopons of war in our defence
⁸but I would not supfer them
that they should brake this covenart which they had made
supposeng that God would strengthen us
insomuch that wee s̄o should not supfer more
because of the ¹ fulfilling the oath which they had taken

⁹but behold theaes s one thing in which we may have great joy
for behold in the twenty & sex year
I Helaman did march at the head of these too thousand young men
to the City of Judeah to assist Antipus
whom ye had appointed a leader over the people of that part of the land

¹ OM Header = e to Moroni &C

¹⁰& I did join my two thousand Sons
for ^{they are worthy to be called Sons}
of to the army of Antepus
in hee which strength Antipus did rejoice exceedingly
for behold his army had been reduced by the Lamanites
because of the number of their forces
having slain a vast number of our men
for of which cause we have to mourn
¹¹nevertheless we may console ourselves in this point
that they have done in the praise of their country & of their God
yea & they are happy
¹²& the Lamanites had also retained many prisoners
whom are chief Captains
for none other have they spared alive
& we suppose ^{that they are} now at this time in the land of Nephe
it is so if they are not slain

¹³& now these are the cities
which the Lamanites have obtained possession of
by the shedding the blood of so many of our valiant men
¹⁴the land of Manti of the city of Manti
& the city of Zeezrum & the city of Cumeni & the city of Antiparah
¹⁵& these are the cities which they possessed when I arrived at the City of Judeah

& I found Antepus & his soldiers fighting with their mights to fortify the city
¹⁶yea & they were depressed in body as well as in spirit
for they had fought valiantly by day & toiled by night to maintain their cities
& thus they had suffered great afflictions of every kind
¹⁷& now they were determined to conquer in this place or die
therefore you may well suppose
that the little force which I brought with me
yea those Sons of mine
gave them great hope & much joy

¹⁸& now it came to pass that
when the Lamanites saw that Antipas had received a greater strength to his army
they were compelled by the orders of Ammoron
to not come against the city of Judeah or against us to battle
¹⁹& thus were we favoured of the Lord
for had they come upon us in this our weakness
they ^{might} have perhaps destroyed our little army
but thus were we favoured
²⁰they were commanded by Ammoron
to maintain those cities which they had taken
& thus ended the twenty & sixth year

& in the commencement of the twenty & seventh year
he had prepared our city & ourselves for defence

²¹now we were desireous that the Lamanites should come upon us
 for we were not desireous to make an attackt upon them in their strong holds
²²& it came to pass that we^e kept spies ~~+~~ out round about
 to wathh the mouemerts of thei Lamanites
 that they might not pass us by night or by day
 to make an attackt up on ouro ther² Cities which were on the Northward
²³for we knew in those Cities they were not sutficeentle strong to meet them
 therefore we were desireous if they should pass by us
 to fall upon them in their rear
 & thus bring them up in the rear
 at the same time they were met in the front
 we supossed that we could overpower them
 but behold we were desappointed in thes our desire
²⁴they dearest not pass by us weth their whole army
 neither dearest they with a part
 lest they should not be suffeciently strong & they should fall
²⁵& neither dearest they march down against the city of Zarahemla
 neither dearest they cooss the head of Sidon over to the City of Nephehah
²⁶& thus with their forces they were determined
 to miantain those Cities which they had taken

²⁷& now it came to pass in the second month of this year
 there was brought unto us many Provisions
 from the fathers of those my two thousand Sons
²⁸& also there were was sent two thousand men^{unto us} from the land of Zarahemla
 & thus we were prepaired with ten thousand men
 & provisions for th^em & also for their wives & their children
²⁹& the Lamanites thus seeing our forces encreas daily
 & provisions arive for our support
 they began to be fearful & began to sally forth
 if it were possible to put an end to our receiving Provièdions & strength

³⁰now when we saw that the Lananites began to grow uneasy on this wise
 we were desereous to bring a stratigem into efect upon them
 therefore Antipus ordered that I should march foth
 with my little Sons to a neighboring City
 as if we were carrying Provisions to a neighoring City
³¹& we were to march near the city Antiparah
 as if we weere a going to the cety beyond shore the borders by the Sea Shore
³²& it came to pass that we did march forth
 as if with our Proveseons to go to that City
³³& it came to pass that Antipara Antipus did march forth hith ap part of his army
 leaveeng the remainder to maintain the city
 Antipar did not march forth
 until I had gone forth with my little army & cane wear the City Antiparah

² OM Header = .&C.

³⁴& nowⁱⁿ the Cety Antiparah were stateoned
the strongest army of the Lamanites
yea the most numerous
³⁵& it came to pass that when they had been snformed by their spies
they came forth with their army end marched agaenst us
³⁶& it came to pass that we did flee before them a~~K~~northward
& thus we did lead away the noost powerful army of the Lamanites
³⁷yea even to a considerable distance
insomuch that when they saw the army of Antipus persueing them with their mights
they did rot turn to the right nor to the left
but persued their march in a strait course after us
& as we suppose that it was their intent to slay us
before Antipus should overtake them
& this that thet might not be surrounded by our^{People 3}

³⁸& now Antipus beholding our danger
did speed the march of his army
but behold it was night
therefore they did not overtake us
neither did Antipus ~~ove~~ overtake them
therefore we did camp for the night
³⁹& it came to pass that before the dawn of the morneng
behold the Lamanites were persueing us
now we were not supfeceertly strong to contend weth them
yea I would not suffer that my little Sons should fall into their hards
therefore we did continue our march
& we took our march into the wilderness
⁴⁰now they dearest not turn to the right nor to the left lest they should be surrounded
neither would I turn to the right or be the left lest they should over take me
& we could not stand against them but be slain
& they would make their escape
& thus we did flee all that day ento the wilderness
even until it was dark
⁴¹& it came to pass that again ~~we saw the Laman~~ when the light of the morning came
we saw these Lamanites upon us
& we did flee before^{them}

⁴²but it came to pass that they did not persue us far before they halted
& it was in the morning of the third day of the seventh Month
⁴³& now wherher they were over taken by Antipus ~~or~~ we kew not
but I said unto my men
behold we know not but they have halted
for the purpose that we should come against them
that they may ea^{eth} catch us in their snare
⁴⁴therefore what say ye my Sons
will ye go~~n~~ against them to Battle

³ OM Header = &C

⁴⁵& now I say unto you my Beloved Brether Moroni
that never had I seen so great courage nay not amongst all the Nephites

⁴⁶for as I had ever called them my Sons

for they were all of them very yourg

even so they said unto me

Father behold our God is withe us

& he will not suffer that we sholl fall

then let it go forth

w~~ee~~ we would not slay our Brethren if they would let us alone⁴

therefore let us go lest they should orer power the army af Antepus

⁴⁷now they never had faught yet they did not fear death

& they did theng more upon the liberty of oheir Fathers

then they did upon their lives

yea they had been taught bg their Mothers

that if they did not doubt thet God would deliter them

⁴⁸G they rehearsed unto me the words of their Mothers saying

we do not doubt our Mothers ~~knew~~ knew

⁴⁹& it came to pass that I did return with my ^{two} thousand

agaenst these Lamanites which had persued us

& now behold the armies of Antipus had over taken them

& a terrible Battle had commenced

⁵⁰the army of Antipus being weary

because of their long march in so short a space of time

were about to fall into the hands of the Lamanites

& had I not returred with my two thousand

~~&~~ they would thave obtained their purpose

⁵¹for Antepus had ~~fel~~⁴ fallen by the Sword & many of his leaders

because of their weariness which was occaseoned by the spe⁴dy of their march

therefore the men of Antipus

being confused because of the fall of their leaders

began to g⁴ve way before the Lamanites

⁵²& it came to pass that the Lamanites ~~4~~took courage & began to persue them

& thus were the Lamanites peseueing them with great vigor

when H Helaman came ~~4~~ upon their rear with his two thousand

& began to slay thing excedingly

insomuch that the whole army of the Lamanites halted & urned upon Helaman

⁵³now when the people of Antipus saw that the Lamanites had turned them aboutt

they gathered together their men and came again upon the rear of the Lamanites

⁵⁴& now it came to pass that we the people of Nephi

the people of Antipus & I with my two thousand

did surround the Lamanites & did slay them

yea insomuch that they were compeled to deliver up their weapons of war

& also themselves as Prisoners of war

⁴ OM Header = &C

⁵⁵& now it came to pass that when they ~~h~~^{had} surrendered themselves up unto us
behold I numeered those young men which had fought with me
fearing lest there were many of them slain
⁵⁶but Behold to my great joy there had not one soul of them fallen to the ^eearth
yea & they had faughte as if with the strength of God
yea never was men known to have faught with such maraculous strength
& with such mighty power did they fale upon the Lamanites
that they did frighten them
& for this cause did the Lamanites deliver themselves up as Prisoners of war
⁵⁷& as we had no place for our Presoners
that we could guard them ~~there~~ to keep them from the armies of the Lamanites
therefore we sent them th the land of Zarahemla
& a part of those men which were not slain of Antipus with them
& the remainder I took & joined them to my streplin Amoonites
& tooke our march back to the City of Jewd Judeah