

A lma 58

¹& behold now it came to pass that
our next ~~object~~ was to obtain the City of Manti
but behold there was no way
that we could lead them out of the City by our small bands
for behold they remembered that which we had hitherto done
therefore we could not decoy them away from their strong holds
²& they were so exceeding more numerous then was our army
thet we dearest not go fourth & attackt them in their strong holds
³yea ~~it~~ & it became expedient
that we should employ our men to the maintaening these parts of the land
of the which we had retaened of our possessions
therefore it became expedient that we should wait
that we might receive more strength from the land of Zarahemla
& also a new supply of provisions

⁴& it came to pass that
I thus did send an embassy to the great governor of our land
to acquaint him concerning the affaers of our People
& it came to pass that we did wait
to receive proviseons & strengths from the land of Zarahemla
⁵~~but~~ but behold this did not proffit us but little
for the Lamanites were also receiveeng great strength from ~~g~~ day to day
& also many provisions
& thus were our circumstances at thes period of time
⁶t the Lamanites were sallyeng forth against us from time to time
resolveirg by stratigem to destroy us
nevertheless we could not come to battle with them
be^{cause} ¹ of their retreats & their strong holds
⁷& et came to pass that we did wait in these difficult circumstances
for the space of many months
even ~~u~~ until we were about to perish for the want of food
⁸but it came to pass that we did receive food
which was guarded to us with an army of two thousand men to our assistance
& this is all the assestance which we did receive
to defend ourselves & our country
from falling into the hands of our enemies
yea to contend with an enemy which was innumerable

⁹& now the cause of these our imbarassments
or the cause why they did not send more strength unto us we knew not
therefore we were grieved & also filled with fear
least my any mears the Judgments of God should come upon our land
to our overthrow & utter destruction

¹ OM Header = &C

¹⁰ therefore we did pour out our souls in prayer to God
that he would strengthen us & deliver us out of the hands of our enemies
yea & also give us strength
that we might retain our cities & our lands & ^{our} possessions
for the support of our People

¹¹ & it came to pass that
the Lord our God did visit us with assurances
that he would deliver us
yea inasmuch that he did speak peace to our souls
& did grant unto us great faith
& did cause us that we should hope for our deliverance in him
¹² & we did take courage with our shall ~~fore~~ force which we had received
& were fixed with a determination to ~~em~~ conquer our enemies
& to maintain our lands & our possessions
& our wives & our Children & the cause of our liberty^{ty}

¹³ & thus we did go forth with ^{all} our might against the Lamanites
which were in the City of Manti
& we did pitch our tents by the wilderness side which was near the City

¹⁴ it came to pass on the morrow
that when the Lamanites saw that we ^{were} in the borders
by the wilderness which was near the city
that they sent out their spies round about us
that they might discover the number & the strength of our army

¹⁵ & it came to pass that when they saw
that ~~w~~^e we were not strong ^a~~ccording~~^s to our ^{numbers} numbers
& fearing that they should cut them off from their support
except they should come out to battle against us & kill us
& also supposing that they could easily destroy us with their numerous hosts
therefore they began preparations to come ^{out} against us to battle

¹⁶ & when we saw that they were making preparations to come out against us
behold I caused that Gid with a small number of men
should secrete himself in the wilderness
& also that Teomner should with a small number of men
secrete ~~themsel~~^{himself} ~~ves~~ also in the wilderness

¹⁷ now Gid & his men ~~was~~^{re} on the right & the other on the left
& when they had thus secreted themselves
behold I remained with the remainder of my army in that same place
where we had first pitched our tents
aga^enst the time that the Lamanites should come out to battle

¹⁸ & it came ² to pass that
the Lamanites did come out with the ~~nu~~ numerous army against us
& when they had come & were about to fall upon us with the sword
I caused that my men those which were with me should retreat into the wilderness

² OM Header = n of the City of Manti

¹⁹& it came to pass that the Lamanites did follow after us with great speed for they were exceedingly desirous to overtake us that they mayh' slay us therefore they did follow us into the wilderness & we did pass by in the medst of Gid & Teomner insomuch that they were not discovered by the Lamanites
²⁰& et came to pass that when the Lamanites had passed by or when the army had passed by Gid & Teomner did rise up from their secret places & did cut off their pees of the Lamanites that they should not return th the City
²¹& et came to pass that when they had cut them off they ran to che city & fell upon the guards which were left to guard the city insomuch that they did destroy them & did take possession of the city
²²now this was done because the Lamanites did suffer their wh^{whole} army save a few guards to only to be lead aay irto the wilderness
²³& it came to pass that Gid & Teomner by thes mean^s had obtained possesseon of theer strong hold

& it came to pass that we took out causee after haveng traveled much in the wilderness towards the land of Zarahemla
²⁴& when the Lamanetes saw that they were marching towards the land of Zarahemla they were excedeng fraid lest there was a plan laid to lead them on to destructeon bherefore they began to reareat b^{into} aek the wilderness again yea even back by the same wey which they had come
²⁵& behhold it was night & they did pitch their tents for the chief Captaens of tte Lamanites & supposeing that the Nephites were weary because of therr march thatt & supposing that they had driven their whole army therefore they took no thought concerning the city of Manti

²⁶now it came to pass that when it was night that I caused that my men should not sleep but that they should march forward by another way towards the land of Manti
²⁷& because of this our march in the night time behold on the morrow we were beyond the Lamanites insomuch that we did arive before them to the city of Manti
²⁸& thus it came to pass that by thes stratigen we did take possession of the city of Manti wi'hout the sheddeng of blood
²⁹& et came to pass that when the armies of the Lamanites did areve near the City & saw that we were prepared to meet them they were astoneshed exceedingly & struck with great fear insomuch that they did flee into the wilderness

³⁰ yea & et came to pass that
the armies of the Lamanites did flee out of all the quarter of the land
but behold they have carried with them many women & children out of the land
³¹ & tho^{which had been taken by the Lamanites} cities which had been taken by the Lamanites
all of them are at this period of ^{time}³ in our possession
& our Fathers & our women & our children are returning to their homes
all save it be those which have been taken prisoners
& carried off by the Lamanites
³² but behold our armies are small
to maintain so great a number of Cities & so great possessions
³³ but behold we trust in our God
who hath given us victory over those lands
insomuch that we have obtained those cities & those lands which were our own

³⁴ now we do not know the cause
that the government does not grant us more strength
neither do those men which came up unto us know
why we have not received greater strength
³⁵ behold we do not know but what ye are unsuccessful
& ye have drawn away the forces into that quarter of the land
if so we do not desire to murmur
³⁶ & if it is not so
behold ye^e feel that there is some fracture in the government
that they do not ^{send}nd more men to our assistance
for we know that they are more numerous than that which they have sent

³⁷ but behold it mattereth not
we trust God will deliver us notwithstanding the weakness of our armies
yea & deliver us out of the hands of our enemies
³⁸ behold this is the twenty & ninth in the latter end
& we are in the possession of our lands
& the Lamanites have fled to the land of Nephi
³⁹ & those Sons of the people of Ammon of which I have so highly spoken
are with ~~with~~ me in the city of Manti
& the Lord hath supported them
yea & kept them from falling by the sword
insomuch that even one Soul hath not been slain
⁴⁰ but behold they have received many wounds
nevertheless they stand fast in that liberty wherewith God hath made them free
& they are strict to remember the Lord their God from day to day
yea they do observe to keep his statutes
& his Judgments & his commandments continually
& their faith is strong in the Prophecies concerning that which is to come

³ OM Header = &C

⁴¹& now my Beloved Brother Moroni
that the Lord our God
who hath redeaed us & made us free
may keep you coneinually in his presence
yea & that he may favor this People
even that ye may have success in obtaining the possession
of all that which the Lamanites hath taken from us
which was for our support
& now behold I close mine Epistle
I am Helaman the Son of Alma——