

## Helaman 6

<sup>1</sup>& it came to pass that when the sixty & second year of the reign of the Judges had ended all these things had happened & the Lamanites had become the more part of them a righteous people insomuch that their righteousness did excede that of the Nephites because of their firmness & their stediness in the faith

<sup>2</sup>for behold there were many of the Nephites which had become hardoned & impenitant & grossly wicked insomuch that they did reject the word of God & all the preaching & the prophesying which did come among them <sup>3</sup>nevertheless the people of the church did have great joy because of the conversion of the Lamanites yea because of the church of God which had been established among them & they did fellowship one with an other & did rejoice one with another & did have great joy

<sup>4</sup>& it came to pass that many of the Lamanites did come down into the land of Zarahemla & did declare unto the people of the Nephites the manner of their conversion & did exhort them to faith & repentance

<sup>5</sup>yea & many did preach with excding great power & authority unto the bringing down many of them into the debths of humility to be the humble followers of God & of the Lamb

<sup>6</sup>& it came to pass that many of the Lamanites did go into the land Northward & also Nephi & Lehi went into the land Northward to preach unto the people & thus ended the sixty & third year

<sup>7</sup>& behold there was peace in all the land insomuch that the Nephites did go into whatsoever part of the land they would whether among the Nephites or the Lamanites

<sup>8</sup>& it came to pass that the Lamanites did also go whethersoever they would whether it were among the Lamanites or <sup>among</sup> the Nephites & thus they did have free intercourse one with another for to buy & to sell & to get gain according to their desire

<sup>9</sup>& it came to pass that they became excding rich both the Lamanites & the Nephites & they did have an excding plenty of gold & of silver & of all manner of precious petals both in the land South & in the ~~land~~ land North

<sup>10</sup>now the land South was called Lehi & the land North was called Mulek which was after the Son of Zedekiah for the Lord did bring Mulek into the land North & Lehi into the land south

<sup>11</sup>& behold there was all manner of gold in both these lands  
& of Silver & of precious oar of every kind  
& there was also curious workmen  
which did work all kinds of oar & did refine it  
& thus they did become rich

<sup>12</sup>they did raise grain in abundance both in the North & in the South  
& they did flourish excedingly both in the north & in the South  
& they did multiply & wax exceding strong in the land  
& they did raise many flocks & heards yea many fatlings

<sup>13</sup>behold their women did toil & spin  
& did make all manner of cloth  
of fine twined linnen & cloth of every kind  
to cloath their nakedness  
& thus the sixty & ~~forth~~ fourth year did pass away in peace  
<sup>14</sup>& in the sixty & fifth year they did also have great joy <sup>& peace</sup>  
~~y<sup>yea</sup>ea~~ much preaching &  
many prophecies concerning that which was to come  
& thus passed away the sixty & fifth year

<sup>15</sup>& it came to pass that in the sixty & sixth year of the reign of the Judges  
behold Cezoram was murdered by an unknown hand  
as he sat upon the Judgmentseat  
& it came to pass that in the same year  
that his Son <sup>which</sup> had been appointed by the people in his stead  
was also murdered  
& thus ended the sixty & sixth year

<sup>16</sup>& in the commencement of the sixty & seventh year  
the people began to grow exceding wicked again  
<sup>17</sup>for behold the Lord had blessed them so long with the riches of the world  
that they had not been stired up to anger to wars <sup>nor</sup>& to bloodsheds  
therefore they began to set their hearts upon their riches  
yea they began to seek to get gain  
that they might be lifted up one above another  
therefore they began to commit ~~see~~ <sup>secret</sup> murders & to rob & to plunder  
that they might get gain

<sup>18</sup>& now behold those murderers & plunderers were a band  
which had been formed by Kishkumen & Gadianton

& now it had come to pass that  
there were many even among the Nephites of Gadiantons band  
but behold they were more numerous  
among the more wicked part of the Lamanites  
& they were called Gadiantons ~~ro~~ robbers & murderers  
<sup>19</sup>& it was they which did murder the Chief Judge Cezoram & his Son  
while in the Judgmentseat  
& behold they were not found

<sup>20</sup>& now it came to pass that  
when the Lamanites found that there were robbers among them  
they were exceding sorrowful  
& they did use every means whatsoever was in their power  
to destroy them off the face of the earth  
<sup>21</sup>but behold Satan did stir up the hearts of the more parts of the Nephites  
insomuch that they did unites with those bands of robbers  
& did enter into their covenants & their oaths  
that they would protect & preserve one another  
in whatsoever difficult circumstances they should be placed in  
that they should not suffer for their murders  
& their plunderings & their stealings  
<sup>22</sup>& it came to pass that they did have their signs  
yea their secret signs & their secret words  
& this that they might ~~distu~~<sup>distinguish</sup> in a brother  
who had entered into the covenant  
that whatsoever wickedness his brother should do  
he should not be injured by his brother  
nor <sup>by</sup> those who did belong to his band who had taken this covenant  
<sup>23</sup>& thus they might murder & plunder & steal  
& commit horedoms & all manner of wickedness  
conterary to the laws of their country & also the laws of their God  
<sup>24</sup>& whosoever of those which belonged to their band  
should reveal unto the world of their wickedness & their abominations  
should be tried not according to the laws of their country  
but according to the laws of their wickedness  
which had been given by Gadianton & Kishkumen

<sup>25</sup>now behold it is these secret oaths & covenants  
which Alma commonded his Son should not go forth unto the world  
lest they should be a means of bringing down the people unto destruction  
<sup>26</sup>now behold those ~~se~~<sup>secret</sup>~~ered~~ oaths & covenants did not come forth unto Gadianton  
from the records which were delivered unto Helaman  
but behold they were put into the heart of Gadianton  
by that same being who did entice our first parents  
to partake of the forbidden fruit  
<sup>27</sup>yea that same being who did plot with Cain  
that if he would murder his brother Abel  
it should not be known unto the world  
& he did plot with Cain & his followers from that time forth  
<sup>28</sup>& also it is that same being who put it into the hearts of the people  
to build a Tower sufficiently high that they might get to Heaven  
& it was that same being  
which lead on the people which came from that Tower into this land  
which spread the works of darkness & abominations  
over all the face of the land  
until he draged the people down  
to an entire destruction & to an everlasting Hell

<sup>29</sup> yea it is that same being who put it into the heart of Gadianton  
to still carry on the work of darkness & of secret murder  
& he hath brought it forth from the beginning of man  
even down to this time

<sup>30</sup> & behold it is he which is the author of all sin  
& behold he doth carry on his works of darkness & secret murder  
& doth hand down their plots & their oaths  
& their covenants & their plans of awful wickedness  
from generation to generation  
according as he can get hold upon the hearts of the children of men

<sup>31</sup> & now behold he had got great hold upon the hearts of the Nephites  
yea insomuch that they had become exceeding wicked  
yea the more part of them had turned out of the way of righteousness  
& did trample under their feet the commandments of God  
& did turn unto their own ways

& did build up unto themselves Idols of <sup>their</sup> gold & of <sup>their</sup> Silver

<sup>32</sup> & it came to pass that all these iniquities did come unto them  
in the space of not many years  
insomuch that ~~the~~<sup>a</sup> more part of it had come unto them  
in the sixty & seventh year of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi

<sup>33</sup> & they did grow in their iniquities in the sixty & eighth year also  
to the great sorrow & lamentation of the righteous

<sup>34</sup> & thus we see that the Nephites did begin to dwindle in unbelief  
& grow in wickedness & abominations  
while the Lamanites began to grow exceedingly in the knowledge of their God  
yea they did begin to keep his statutes & commandments  
& to walk in truth & uprightness before him

<sup>35</sup> & thus we see that the spirit of the Lord began to withdraw from the Nephites  
because of the wickedness & the hardness of their hearts

<sup>36</sup> & thus we see that the Lord began to pour out his spirit upon the Lamanites  
because of their easiness & willingness to believe in his words

<sup>37</sup> & it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gadianton  
& they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them  
insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed  
from among the Lamanites

<sup>38</sup> & it came to pass on the other hand  
that the Nephites did build them up & support them  
beginning at the more wicked part of them  
until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites  
& had ~~sud~~<sup>seduced</sup> ~~used~~ the more part of the righteous  
until they had come down to believe in their works  
& partake of their spoils

& to join with them in their secret murders & combinations

<sup>39</sup> & thus they did obtain the sole management of the government  
insomuch that they did trample under their feet & smite & rend  
& turn their backs upon the poor & the meek & humble followers of God

<sup>40</sup>& thus we see that they were in an awful state  
& ripening for an everlasting destruction  
<sup>41</sup>& it came to pass that thus ended the sixty & eighth year  
of the reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi——