

Moroni 9

Chapter IX

The second epistle of Mormon to his son Moroni

¹My beloved son I write unto you again
that ye may know that I am yet alive

but I write somewhat that which is grievous

²for behold I have had a sore battle with the Lamanites
in the which we did not conquer

& Archeantus has fallen by the sword

& also Luram & Emer

yea & we have lost a great number of our choice men

³& now behold my son

I fear lest the Lamanites shall destroy this people

for they do not repent

& Satan stirreth them up continually to anger one with another

⁴behold I am laboring with them continually

& when I speak the word of God with sharpness

they tremble & anger against me

& when I use no sharpness

they harden their hearts against it

wherefore I fear lest the spirit of the Lord hath ~~ceased~~ ^{ceased striving} ~~ceased~~ with them

⁵for so exceedingly do they anger

that it seemeth me that they have no fear of death

& they have lost their love one towards another

& they thirst after blood & revenge continually

⁶& now my beloved son

notwithstanding their hardness let us labor diligently

for if we should cease to labor

we should be brought ~~under~~ ^{under} ~~in~~ condemnation

for we have a labor to perform ^{whilst in this} ~~whilst~~ tabernacle of clay

that we may conquer the enemy of all righteousness

& rest our souls in the kingdom of God

⁷& now I write somewhat concerning the sufferings of this people

for according to the knowledge ^{which} I have received from Amoron

behold the Lamanites have many prisoners

which they took from the tower Sherrizah

& there were men women & children

⁸& the husbands & fathers of those women & children they have slain

& they feed the women upon the flesh of their husbands

& the children upon the flesh of their fathers

& no water save a little do they give unto them

⁹& notwithstanding this great abomination of the Lamanites

it doth not exceed that of our people in Moriantum

for behold many of the daughters of the Lamanites have they taken prisoners
& after depriving them of that
which was most dear & precious above all things
which is chastity & vertue
¹⁰& after that they had none this thing
they did murder them in a most cruel manner
torturing their bodies even unto death
& after that they have done this
they devour their flesh like unto wild beasts
because of the hardness of their hearts
& they do it for a token of bravery

¹¹O my beloved son
how can a people like this
that are without civilization
¹²& only a few years have passed away
& they were a civil & a delightsome people
¹³but O my son
how can a people like this
whose delight is in so much abomination
¹⁴how can we expect
that God will stay his hand in judgement against us
¹⁵behold my heart cries
Wo unto this people
come out in judgement O God
& hide their sins & wickedness & abominations
from before thy face

¹⁶& again my son
there are many widows & their daughters which remain in Sherrizah
& that part of the provisions which the Lamanites did not carry away
behold the army of Zenephi has carried away
& left them to wander whithersoever they can for food
& many old women do faint by the way & die
¹⁷& the army which is with me is weak
& the armies of the Lamanites are betwixt Sherrizah & me
& as many as have fled to the army of Aaron
have fallen victims to their awful brutality

¹⁸O the depravity of my people
they are without order & without mercy
behold I am but a man & I have but the strength of a man
& I cannot any longer enforce my commands
¹⁹& they have become strong in their perversion
& they are alike brutal
spareing none neither old nor young
& they delight in every thing save that which is good
& the sufferings of our women & our children
upon all the face of this land

doth exceed every thing
yea tongue cannot tell
neither can it be written

²⁰& now my son I dwell no longer upon this horrible scene
behold thou knowest the wickedness of this people
thou knowest that they are without principle & past feeling
& their wickedness doth exceed that of the Lamanites

²¹behold my son I cannot recommend them unto God
lest he should smite me

²²but behold my son I recommend thee unto God
& I trust in Christ that thou wilt be saved
& I pray unto God that he would spare thy life
to witnes the return of his people unto him or their utter destruction
for I know that they must perish except they repent & return unto him

²³& if they perish it will be like unto the Jaredites
because of the wilfulness of their hearts
seeking for blood & revenge

²⁴& if it so be that they perish
we know that many of our brethren have desented over unto the Lamanites
& many more will also desen over unto them
wherefore write some what a few things
if thou art spared & I shall perish & not see thee
but I trust that I may see thee soon
for I have sacred records that I would deliver up unto thee

²⁵my son be faithful in christ
& may not the things which I have written grieve thee
to way thee down unto death
but may christ lift thee up
& may his sufferings & death & the shewing his body unto our fathers
& his mercy & longsuffering
& the hope of his glory & of eternal life
rest in your mind forever

²⁶& may the grace of God the Father
whose throne is high in the Heavens
& our Lord Jesus Christ
who sitteth on the right hand of his power
until all things shall become subject unto him
be & abide with you forever
Amen.—