

Mosiah 21

¹& it came to pass that Limhi & his people returned to the city of Nephi
& began to dwell in the land again in peace

²& it came to pass that after many days
the Lamanites began again to be stired up in anger against the Nephites
& they began to come into the borders of the land round about

³now they derst not slay them because of the oath
which their king had made unto Limhi
but they would smite them on their cheeks
& exercise authority over them
& began to put heavy burdens upon ~~th~~^{their}~~em~~ backs

& drive them as they would a dumb ass

⁴yea all this was done that the word of the Lord might be fulfilled

⁵& now the afflictions of the Nephites was great
& there was no way that they could deliver themselves out of their hands
for the Lamanites had surrounded them on every side

⁶& it came to pass that
the people began to murmur with the king because of their afflictions
& they began to be desireous to go against them to battle
& they did afflict the king sorely with their complaints
therefore he granted unto them that they should do according to their desires

⁷& they gathered themselves together again & put on their armour
& went forth against the Lamanites to drive them out of their land

⁸& it came to pass that the Lamanites did beat them
& drive them back & slay many of them

⁹& now there was a great mourning & lamentation among the people of Limhi
the widow a mourning for her husband
the Son & the ~~th~~ daughter amourning for their father
& the brothers for their brethren

¹⁰now there were a great many widows in the land
& they did cry mightily from day to day
for a great fear of the Lamanites had come upon them

¹¹& it came to pass that
their continual cries did stir up the remainder of the people of Limhi
to anger against the Lamanites
& they went again to battle
but they were driven back again
suffering much loss

¹²yea they went again even the third time
& suffered in the like manner
& those that were not slain returned again to the city of Nephi

¹³& they did humble themselves even to ~~th~~^{the} ~~du~~st dust
submitting themselves to the yoke of bondage
submitting themselves to be smitten
& to be driven to & fro & burdened
according to the desires of their enemies
¹⁴& they did humble themselves even in the depths of humility
& they did cry mightily to God
yea even all the day long did they cry unto their God
that he would deliver them out of their afflictions

¹⁵& now the Lord was slow to hear their cry because of their iniquities
nevertheless the Lord did hear their cries
& began to soften the hearts of the Lamanites
that they began to ease their burdens
yet the Lord did not see fit to deliver them out of bondage

¹⁶& it came to pass that they began to prosper by degrees in the land
& began to raise grain more abundantly & flocks & herds
that they did not suffer with hunger

¹⁷now there was a great number of women more then there was of men
therefore king Limhi commanded
that every man should impart to the support of the widows & their children
th~~o~~t they might not perish with hunger
& this they did because of the greatness of their number that had been slain

¹⁸now the people of Limhi kept together in a body
as much as it was possible
& secure their grain & their flocks

¹⁹& the king himself did not trust his person without the walls of the City
unless he took his guards with him
fearing that ^{he might} by some means fall into the hands of the Lamanites

²⁰& he caused that his people should watch the land round about
that by some means they might take those priests that fled into the wilderness
which had sto~~e~~n the daughters of the Lamanites
& that had caused such a great destruction to come upon them

²¹for they were desireous to take them that they might punish them
for they had come into the land of Nephi by night
& carried off of their grain & many of their precious things
therefore they laid wait for them

²²& it came to pass that there was no more disturbance
between the Lamanites & the people of Limhi
even untill the time that Ammon & his Brethren came into the land

²³& the king haveing been without the gates of the City with his guard
he discovered Ammon & his Brethren
& supposing them to be priests of Noah
therefore he caused that they should be taken & bound & cast into prison
& had they been the priests of Noah
he would have caused that they should be put to death

²⁴but when he found that they were not
but that they were his brethren & had come from the land of Zarahemla
he was filled with exceeding great joy

²⁵now king Limhi had sent previous to the coming of Ammon
a small number of men to search for the land of Zarahemla
but they could not find it

& they were lost in the wilderness

²⁶nevertheless they did find a land which had been peopled
yea a land which was covered with dry bones
yea a land which had been peopled & which had been destroyed
& they having supposed it to be the land of Zarahemla
returned to the land of Nephi
having arrived in the borders of the land
not many days before the coming of Ammon

²⁷& they brought a record with them
even a record of the people bones they had found
& they were engraven on plates of ore

²⁸& now Limhi was again filled with joy
on learning from the mouth of Ammon
that king Benjamin had a gift from God
whereby he could interpret such engravings
yea & Ammon also did rejoice

²⁹yet Ammon & his brethren were filled with sorrow
because so many of their brethren had been slain

³⁰& also that king Noah & his priests had caused the people
to commit so many sins & iniquities against God
& they also did mourn for the death of Abinadi
& also for the departure of Alma & the people that went with him
who had formed a church of God
through the strength & power of God
& faith on the words which had been spoken by Abinadi

³¹yea they did mourn for their departure
for they knew not whither they had fled
now they would have gladly joined with them
for they themselves had entered into a covenant with God
to serve him & keep his commandments

³²& now since the coming of Ammon
king Limhi had also entered into a covenant with God
& also many of his People
to serve him & keep his commandments

³³& it came to pass that
king Limhi & many of his people was desirous to be baptised
but there was none in the land that had authority from God
& Ammon declined doing this thing
considering himself an unworthy servant

³⁴ therefore they did not at that time form themselves into a church
waiting upon the spirit of the Lord
now they were desirous to become even as Alma & his brethren
which had fled into the wilderness

³⁵ they were desirous to be baptised as a witness & a testimony
that they were willing to serve God with all their hearts
nevertheless they did ~~pro~~ prolong the time
& an account of their baptism shall be given hereafter

³⁶ & now all the study of Ammon & his people & king Limhi & his People
was to deliver themselves out of the hands of the Lamanites & from bondage