

3rd Nephi 3

Chapter — —

¹And now it came to pass that
in the sixteenth year from the coming of Christ
Lachone^{us} the governor of the land received an Epistle
from the leaders & the governor of this band of robbers
& these are the words which were written saying
²Lachone^{us} most noble & chief governor of the land
behold I write this Epistle unto you
& do give unto you exceding great praise
because of your firmness & also the firmness of your people
in maintaining that which ye suppose to be your right & liberty
yea ye do stand well as if ye were supported by the hand of **a** God
in the defence of your liberty & your þ property & your country
or that which ye **do** call so
³& it seemeth a pity unto me most noble Lachone^{us}
that ye should be so foolish & vain as to suppose
that ye can stand against so many brave men which are at my command
which do now at this time stand in their arms
& do await with great anxiety for the word
go down upon the Nephites & **destroy them**
⁴& I knowing **of** their unconquerable spirit
having proved them in the field of **Battle**
& knowing of their everlasting hatred towards you
because of **the** many wrongs which ye have done unto them
therefore if they should come down against you
they **would vesit you with** utter destruction
⁵therefore I have wrote this Epistle
Sealing it with **mine own hand**
feeling for your welfare
because of your firmness in that which ye **believe to be reght**
& **your noble spirit** in the field of battle

⁶therefore I write unto you
desireing **that** ye would yield up up unto this my people
your cities your lands & your possessions
rather **that they** should visit you with the sword
& that destruction should come upon **you**
⁷or in other **words** yield yourselves up unto us & unite with us
& become acquainted with our **secret works** & become ^{our Bret}h^{ren}
that ye may be like unto us not our slaves
but our brethren & partners of all our substance

⁸& behold I swear unto you
if ye will do this with an ~~oath~~^{oath} ye shall not be destroyed
but if ye will not do this I swear unto you with an oath
that on the morrow ~~month~~^{month} I will command
that my armies shall come down against you
& they shall not stay their hand & shall spare not
but shall slay you & shall let fall the sword upon you
[yea] even until ye shall become extinct

⁹& behold I am Giddianhi
& I am the governor of this **the** secret society of Gadianon
& which ~~seer~~^{society} ~~see~~ & the works thereof I know to be good
& they are of ancient date
& they have been handed down unto us

¹⁰& I write this Epistle unto you Lachoneus
& I hope that ye will deliver up your lands & your possessions
without the shedding of blood
that this my people may recover their rights & government
which have dissented away from you because of your wickedness
in retaining from them their rights of government
& except ye do this I will avenge their wrongs
I am Giddianhi

¹¹And now it came to pass when Lachoneus received this Epistle
he was exceedingly astonished because of the boldness of Giddianhi
[in] demanding the possession of the land of the ~~Nep~~ Nephites
& also of threatning the people
& avenging the wrongs of those that had received no wrong
save it were they had wronged themselves

by deserting away unto those wicked & abominable robbers

¹²[&] now behold this Lachoneus the governor was a ~~Just~~^{just} man
& could not be frightened by the demands & the threatnings of a robber
therefore he did not hearken to the Epistle of Giddianhi the governor of the robbers
but he did cause that his people should cry unto the Lord

~~for strength~~^{for strength} ~~against~~ for strength against the time that the robbers should come down against them

¹³yea he sent a proclamation among all the people
that they ~~shou~~ should gather to gether their women & their children
their flocks & their herds & all their substance
save it were their land unto one place

¹⁴& he caused that fortifications should be built round about them
& the strength thereof should be exceding great
& he caused that there should be armies
both of the Nephites & of the Lamanites
or of all them which were numbered among the Nephites
should be placed as guards round ~~ab~~ about to watch them
& to guard them from the robbers day & night

¹⁵yea he said unto them
as the Lord liveth
except ye repent of all your iniquities & cry unto the Lord
that they would in no wise be delivered
out of the hands of those Gadianton robbers
¹⁶& so great & marvelous were the words & prophecies of Lachoneus
that they did cause fear to come upon all the people
& they did exert themselves in their might
to do according to the words of Lachoneus

¹⁷& it came to pass that
Lachoneus did appoint chief captains over all the armies of the Nephites
to command them at the time
that the robbers should come down out of the wilderness against them

¹⁸now the cheefest among all the [chief] captains
& the great commander of all the armies of the Nephites was appointed
& his name was Gidgiddoni

¹⁹now it was the custom among all the Nephites
to appoint for their chief captains save it were in their times of wickedness
some one that had the spirit of revelation & also of prophecy
therefore this Gidgiddoni was a great prophet among them
& also was the chief Judge

²⁰now the people said unto Gidgiddoni
pay^{pray} unto the Lord & let us go up upon the Mountains & into the wilderness
that we may fall upon the robbers & destroy them in their own lands

²¹but Gidgiddoni saith unto them
the Lord forbid
for if we should go up against them
the Lord would deliver us into their hands
therefore we will prepare ourselves in the centre of our lands
& we will gather all our armies together
& we will not go against them
but we will wait till they shall come against us
therefore as the Lord liveth
if we do this he will deliver them into our hands

²²& it came to pass in the seven^{seventeenth}th year in the latter end of the year
the proclama^{tion}tion of Lachoneus had gone forth throughout all the face of the land
& they had taken their horses & their charriots
& their cattle & all their flocks & their herds^{herds}
& their grain & all their substance
& did march forth by thousands & by tens of thousands
until they had all gone forth to the place which had been appointed
that they should gather themselves together
to defend themselves against their enemies

²³ & the land which was appointed was the land of Zarahemla
& the land which was between the land **of** Zarahemla & the land Bountiful
yea **to** the line which was betwixt the land Bountiful & the land Desolation
²⁴ & there were a great many thousand people which were called Nephites
which did gather themselves together in this land
now Lachoneus did cause
that they should gather themselves together in the land southward
because of the great curse which was upon the land northward
²⁵ & they did fortify themselves against their enemies
& they did dwell in one land & in one body
& they did fear the words which had been spoken by Lachoneus
insomuch that they did repent of all their sins
& they did put up their prayers unto the Lord their God
that he would deliver them
in the time that their enemies should come down against them to battle
²⁶ & they were exceeding sorrowful because of their enemies
& Gidgiddoni ^{did} caused that they should make weapons of war of every kind
that they should be strong with armour & with shields & with bucklers
after the manner of his instruction[s]