

THE WORDS *of* MORMON

**The storyline moves ahead 500 years.
Mormon, the compiler of the large plates, assembles all the records.**

Chapter One.

As I, Mormon, am preparing to hand over the record I have been compiling to my son Moroni, I reflect upon having witnessed nearly the complete destruction of my people, the Nephites. Delivering these records into the hands of my son many centuries after the coming of Christ, I anticipate that he will witness the eventual demise of my people. Yet, I pray that he may survive to write about them and about Christ, in the hope that it may someday be beneficial.

Regarding what I have written: After abridging the plates of Nephi down to the reign of King Benjamin, mentioned by Amaleki, I searched among the records delivered to me. I discovered these plates, containing a brief account of the prophets from Jacob to the reign of King Benjamin, and many words of Nephi. I find pleasure in the contents of these plates, especially the prophecies of the coming of Christ. My fathers knew that many of these prophecies were fulfilled, and I, too, recognize the fulfillment of those prophesied until this day. Those beyond this day are sure to come to pass. Therefore, I choose to conclude my record on these plates, taking the remainder from the plates of Nephi. However, I acknowledge that I cannot write even a hundredth part of the things about my people.

These plates, containing prophecies and revelations, are dear to me, and I know they will be valued by my brethren. I do this with a wise purpose, guided by the whisperings of the Spirit of the Lord within me. While I do not know all things, the Lord, who knows all things to come, works in me to fulfill His will. My prayer to God concerns my brethren, that they may once again come to the knowledge of God, to the redemption of Christ, and become a delightsome people.

I now proceed to conclude my record, drawn from the plates of Nephi, based on the knowledge and understanding given to me by God. After Amaleki delivered these plates to King Benjamin, he combined them with the other plates containing records handed down by kings from generation to generation until the days of King Benjamin. These plates passed through the hands of King Benjamin and generations until they reached me. I pray to God for their preservation from this time forth, knowing that great things are written on them. Out of these records, my people and their brethren will be judged on the great and last day, according to the word of God written on them.

There were some contentions among King Benjamin's own people. Additionally, the armies of the Lamanites came down from the land of Nephi to battle against his people. King Benjamin gathered his armies, fought with the strength of his own arm, wielding the sword of Laban. With the strength of the Lord, they contended against their enemies, slaying many thousands of Lamanites. They drove the Lamanites out of all the lands of their inheritance.

After dealing with false Christs, false prophets, preachers, and teachers, the king punished them according to their crimes; facing much contention and dissension among the Lamanites.

The king was a holy man, he reigned in righteousness over his people. Many prophets and holy men in the land spoke the word of God with power and authority, using sharpness due to the stiffneckedness of the people. With the help of these individuals, King Benjamin, through laboring with all the might of his body and the faculty of his whole soul, reestablished peace in the land.