

THE BOOK *of* HELAMAN

(The Son *of* Helaman)

AN INTRODUCTION:

A history of the Nephites, encompassing their conflicts, internal disputes, and prophetic revelations from holy seers prior to the advent of Christ. This account is derived from the writings of Helaman, the son of Helaman, and his descendants, chronicling events up to the arrival of Christ.

Additionally, it recounts the conversion of numerous Lamanites, highlighting the transformation and righteousness of this group.

The narrative also contrasts the virtuous Lamanites with the sinful and abominable actions of the Nephites, as documented in the book of Helaman and subsequent records leading to the era of Christ.

Chapter One.

In the commencement of the fortieth year of the judges' rule over the people of Nephi, a significant conflict arose among the Nephites. With Pahoran's demise, a serious dispute emerged among his sons regarding who should succeed him as the chief judge. Pahoran, Paanchi, and Pacumeni were the contenders for the judgment-seat, causing divisions among the people.

Although Pahoran was ultimately appointed chief judge, Pacumeni joined with the voice of the people when he couldn't secure the position. Paanchi, however, fueled by anger, sought to incite rebellion against his brethren. As Paanchi was about to carry out his plan, he was apprehended, tried, and condemned to death for rebellion.

Infuriated by Paanchi's condemnation, his supporters sent an assassin, Kishkumen, to murder Pahoran while he presided on the judgment-seat. Kishkumen successfully killed Pahoran, and, despite pursuit, escaped. Those who conspired with Kishkumen pledged secrecy about the murder. Pacumeni, by the voice of the people, became the new chief judge, bringing an end to the tumultuous fortieth year.

In the forty-first year, the Lamanites, led by Coriantumr, assembled a vast army to battle the Nephites. Due to governmental contention, the Nephites failed to adequately guard Zarahemla, allowing Coriantumr to swiftly conquer the city. Pacumeni fled but was pursued by Coriantumr, who killed him. Thus ended the days of Pacumeni. With Zarahemla under Coriantumr's control, he planned

to expand his conquest to the north. The Lamanites, led by Coriantumr, armed with various weapons, marched to engage the Nephites in battle. Tubaloth, the Lamanite king, believed Coriantumr could overpower the Nephites and stirred his armies to attack. Coriantumr, appointed as the leader, aimed to gain power by defeating the Nephites. The Lamanite forces, under Coriantumr, marched towards Zarahemla, taking advantage of the Nephites' weakened state.

Due to inadequate guards, Coriantumr easily took Zarahemla, and Pacumeni fled to the city walls but was killed. Coriantumr swiftly moved towards Bountiful, cutting down any Nephites who opposed him. Moronihah, realizing the danger, strategically countered Coriantumr's advance, causing great casualties to the Nephites. Coriantumr, undeterred, pressed on and captured Zarahemla, slaying many Nephites.

Seeing his success, Coriantumr prepared to expand his conquest beyond Zarahemla. Coriantumr, not lingering in Zarahemla, marched with his army towards Bountiful, intending to cut through the land with his sword. Expecting the Nephites' strength to be concentrated in the center, Coriantumr moved swiftly, engaging small groups, and overpowering them.

Moronihah, however, seized the opportunity and gained an advantage over Coriantumr, despite the significant casualties among the Nephites. Moronihah had initially believed the Lamanites would not enter the center of the land, but they proved him wrong by capturing Zarahemla. The Lamanites, under Coriantumr, inflicted great destruction, capturing cities and strongholds, and killing men, women, and children.

Moronihah, upon learning of the situation, sent Lehi to intercept the Lamanites before they reached Bountiful. Lehi successfully engaged the Lamanites, forcing them to retreat towards Zarahemla. In the ensuing battle, Coriantumr was among the slain.

The Lamanites found themselves surrounded by the Nephites. Coriantumr's strategy had inadvertently trapped the Lamanites, leading to their surrender to the Nephites. Moronihah regained control of Zarahemla, and the captured Lamanites were allowed to leave the land in peace.

Thus concluded the events of the forty-first year of the judges' reign.

Chapter Two.

In the forty-second year of the judges' reign, after Moronihah had restored peace between the Nephites and the Lamanites, a dispute arose among the people because there was no one to fill the judgment-seat. Helaman, the son of Helaman, was chosen by the people to fill the judgment-seat.

However, Kishkumen, the murderer of Pahoran, plotted to destroy Helaman. He was supported by his secret band, bound by a covenant of silence about their wicked deeds. Gadianton, skilled in words and adept at carrying out secret murders and robberies, became the leader of Kishkumen's band. Gadianton flattered them, promising power and authority if they helped him become the judge. Thus, Kishkumen sought to eliminate Helaman.

While heading to the judgment-seat to carry out his plan, Kishkumen was intercepted by one of Helaman's servants who, through disguise and nocturnal reconnaissance, had learned of the plot. The servant signaled Kishkumen, who revealed his murderous intent and asked to be led to the judgment-seat to carry out the assassination.

Having discerned Kishkumen's wicked intentions, the servant of Helaman agreed to lead him to the judgment-seat. Thinking his plan would succeed, Kishkumen was pleased. However, as they approached the judgment-seat, the servant fatally stabbed Kishkumen, who died silently. The servant then reported to Helaman all he had witnessed and done.

Helaman dispatched forces to apprehend the band of robbers and secret murderers, intending to execute them according to the law. Gadianton, realizing Kishkumen did not return, feared for his own safety. He led his band out of the land through a hidden route into the wilderness. When Helaman's forces sought them, they were nowhere to be found. More will be revealed about Gadianton later. Thus, the forty-second year of the judges' reign over the people of Nephi came to an end.

At the conclusion of this book, it will be evident that Gadianton played a significant role in the downfall, nearly the complete destruction, of the people of Nephi. I refer not to the end of the book of Helaman but to the conclusion of the book of Nephi, from which I have drawn the account I have written.

Chapter Three.

In the forty-third year of the judges' rule, the people of Nephi experienced minimal discord, except for a slight arrogance within the church that caused some minor disagreements. These issues were resolved by the end of the year. The forty-fourth year saw no contention among the people, and the same held true for the forty-fifth year. However, in the forty-sixth year, significant strife and dissension arose. Many people left Zarahemla, journeying northward to claim new territory. These migrants traveled a considerable distance, encountering vast bodies of water and numerous rivers. They settled in regions where desolation had not yet stripped the land of timber, showcasing their expertise in working with cement to construct dwellings.

Although the land lacked desolation except for the scarcity of timber due to the previous inhabitants' destruction, it earned the label of desolate. Despite limited timber, the people excelled in cement work, constructing houses with this material. They multiplied and spread from south to north, covering all of the lands and seas.

In the north, people dwelled in tents and cement houses, utilizing any available trees for construction. Due to the scarcity of timber in the north, they relied heavily on shipping to transport it. This approach enabled the inhabitants of the north to build cities using both wood and cement.

Even some Lamanites, originally from Ammon, migrated to this land.

Numerous detailed records were kept about these events by various individuals. However, this account cannot contain even a small portion of the extensive history, wars, conflicts, preaching, prophecies, shipping, building, righteousness, wickedness, murders, robberies, and abominations of the Lamanites and Nephites.

The Nephites primarily preserved many books and records across generations. Over time, the Nephites fell into transgression, leading to their demise, becoming wicked and ferocious Lamanites.

Returning to the narrative, great contentions, disturbances, wars, and dissensions occurred among the people of Nephi. The forty-sixth year of the judges' reign concluded. Yet, significant contention persisted in the land during the forty-seventh and forty-eighth years. Helaman, despite the ongoing conflicts, administered justice and equity, adhering to God's commandments and prospering.

Helaman had two sons, Nephi and Lehi, who began to grow devoted to the Lord. Wars and contentions diminished to some extent among the Nephites towards the end of the forty-eighth year of the judges' reign.

In the forty-ninth year, continuous peace prevailed, except for secret combinations established by Gadianton in concealed areas.

Remarkably, the church experienced exceptional prosperity, with thousands joining and being baptized. The church's prosperity astonished even the high priests and teachers. The Lord's work flourished, bringing tens of thousands into the Church.

This underscores the Lord's mercy to all sincere seekers who call upon His name. The gate of heaven is open to all who believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Whoever holds onto the powerful word of God will be led across the gulf of misery to sit with holy fathers in the kingdom of heaven. In this year, rejoicing abounded in Zarahemla and surrounding regions.

Peace and great joy continued through the remainder of the forty-ninth year and throughout the fiftieth year. The fifty-first year also saw peace, but pride infiltrated the hearts of some professing members of the Church. The church itself remained unaffected, but pride led to persecution and affliction among its members.

Despite adversity, the humble part of the people grew stronger in faith and humility through fasting, prayer, and enduring affliction. They experienced joy and consolation, leading to the purification and sanctification of their hearts by yielding to God.

The fifty-second year ended peacefully, except for the growing pride fueled by increasing wealth and prosperity.

In the fifty-third year, Helaman died, and his son Nephi assumed the role of judge, maintaining justice, equity, and adherence to God's commandments.

Chapter Four.

In the fifty-fourth year, discord and strife plagued the church, leading to significant bloodshed among the people. The rebellious faction was defeated and expelled from the land, seeking refuge with the Lamanite king. Attempts to incite the Lamanites to war against the Nephites failed, as the Lamanites were too fearful to heed the dissenters' words.

However, in the fifty-sixth year, Nephite dissenters successfully stirred up the Lamanites, preparing for war throughout the year. By the fifty-seventh year, the Lamanites launched a deadly assault against the Nephites, ultimately seizing the land of Zarahemla and all surrounding territories.

The Nephites, including the forces led by Moronihah, were forced into retreat, seeking refuge in the land of Bountiful. They fortified against the Lamanites from the west to the east sea, creating a defensive line spanning a day's journey for a Nephite. The dissenters, aided by a substantial Lamanite army, successfully gained control of the Nephite lands in the south in the fifty-eighth and ninth years of the judges.

In the sixtieth year, Moronihah and his armies began reclaiming parts of the land, regaining many cities lost to the Lamanites. By the sixty-first year, they managed to recover half of their possessions, marking a significant turnaround.

The Nephites' considerable losses and casualties were attributed to their wickedness and abominable behavior, even among those professing to be part of the church. The root causes included pride, extreme wealth, oppression of the poor, mockery of sacred matters, denial of prophecy and revelation, as well as various immoral acts. Due to their great wickedness, the Nephites were left to their own devices, facing affliction, defeat, and loss of lands to the Lamanites.

Moronihah, along with Nephi and Lehi, preached repentance to the people, and as they repented, prosperity began to return. Moronihah led the repentant people, gradually regaining half of their property and lands. The sixty-first year concluded with this positive turn of events. In the sixty-

second year, Moronihah found it impossible to gain more possessions over the Lamanites, focusing instead on maintaining the territories they had reclaimed.

The Nephites, facing the overwhelming numbers of Lamanites, feared being overpowered and destroyed. Recognizing the impossibility of obtaining the remaining lands, Moronihah concentrated his armies on defending the territories they held.

The Nephites, due to the vast number of Lamanites, lived in constant fear of being overpowered and annihilated. Reflecting on prophecies and the teachings of Alma and Mosiah, the Nephites acknowledged their stiffnecked behavior, disregard for commandments, and corruption of laws. Their wickedness caused the church to dwindle, leading to disbelief in prophecy and revelation, with divine judgments looming. The Nephites, weakened like the Lamanites, observed the withdrawal of the Spirit of the Lord due to their unholiness. Their weakness stemmed from transgressions, and the Lord ceased to preserve them miraculously, as they fell into unbelief and profound wickedness. The Nephites realized the Lamanites outnumbered them, understanding that survival depended on cleaving to the Lord. In just a few years, the Nephites had fallen into transgression and weakness, paralleling the Lamanites in their iniquity.

Chapter Five.

In that very year, Nephi relinquished the judgment-seat to a man named Cezoram. The laws and governments were shaped by the voice of the people, with those embracing evil outnumbering the advocates of good. Consequently, they were on the brink of destruction due to the corruption of their laws. Beyond corruption, they were a stubborn people resistant to governance by law and justice, leading to their inevitable downfall. Nephi, wearied by their iniquity, resigned from the judgment-seat, dedicating the rest of his days to preaching the word of God, joined by his brother Lehi.

Their actions were influenced by the teachings of their father, Helaman, who urged them to keep God's commandments and be remembered for their goodness. Helaman encouraged his sons to emulate their first parents' virtues, reminding them of the importance of being recognized as good.

Adding to his counsel, Helaman wished for his sons to perform good deeds not for boasting but to accumulate eternal treasures in heaven, including the precious gift of eternal life. He implored them to recall the teachings of King Benjamin, emphasizing salvation through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer.

Helaman stressed the need to remember the words of Amulek, emphasizing that Christ would redeem the people from their sins through repentance.

The power given to Christ by the Father enables redemption through repentance, with angels declaring the conditions that lead to salvation. The foundation of their faith, Helaman declared, must be built upon the rock of Christ, ensuring resilience against the devil's onslaughts.

Helaman warned that when faced with the devil's fierce attacks, the faithful, grounded on the rock of Christ, would remain unshaken. He taught many unwritten truths to his sons, and they heeded his words, embarking on a mission to teach God's word throughout the land. Their journey started from Bountiful and extended to Gid, Mulek, and various cities in the land southward, even reaching the Lamanites in Zarahemla.

Their powerful preaching led to the conversion of many dissenters, who confessed their sins, repented, and sought to right the wrongs they had committed. Nephi and Lehi's authority and power amazed the Lamanites, convincing thousands of them to repent and reject the wicked traditions of their fathers.

As they proceeded to the land of Nephi, they were captured by a Lamanite army and imprisoned, similar to the fate of Ammon and his brethren. Despite days without food in prison, when the Lamanites attempted to slay them, Nephi and Lehi were encircled by a protective pillar of fire, preventing harm. The Lamanites, awestruck by this miraculous display, dared not approach Nephi and Lehi.

Encouraged by the unharmed state of Nephi and Lehi, the hearts of the Lamanites were filled with courage. In the prison, Nephi and Lehi spoke to the Lamanites, assuring them that God had shown this marvelous sign to protect His servants.

The earth shook, and the prison walls trembled, but they did not collapse. The prisoners were Lamanites and Nephite dissenters. A cloud of darkness overshadowed them, and a voice from above the cloud, not thunderous but a gentle whisper, commanded repentance and an end to harming God's servants. Despite the mild voice, the earth shook again, and the walls trembled. The darkness persisted.

The third time the voice spoke with marvelous, inexpressible words, causing the walls to tremble, and the earth seemed on the verge of splitting apart. Imprisoned Lamanites, unable to flee due to the overshadowing darkness, were also immobilized by fear.

Among the multitude, there was a Nephite by birth who had once been part of the church of God but had later dissented from them. This individual turned around and, despite the cloud of darkness, saw the radiant faces of Nephi and Lehi shining like angels. Observing them lifting their eyes to heaven, he perceived they were engaged in conversation or lifting their voices to some divine being. Overwhelmed by what he witnessed, this man cried out to the crowd, urging them to turn and behold the extraordinary sight. Miraculously, power was granted to the multitude, allowing them to turn and witness the radiant faces of Nephi and Lehi.

Curious and confused, they questioned the man, Aminadab, about the meaning of these events and with whom the two men were conversing. Aminadab responded, telling them that Nephi and Lehi were conversing with the angels of God. Intrigued, the Lamanites asked Aminadab what they should do to remove the cloud of darkness overshadowing them. Aminadab advised them to repent, cry unto the divine voice, and have faith in Christ, as taught by Alma, Amulek, and Zeezrom. He assured them that by doing so, the cloud of darkness would be dispelled.

The Lamanites began to cry out to the divine voice, persisting until the cloud of darkness dissipated. As they looked around, the dispersed cloud revealed that they were now encircled by a pillar of fire, with Nephi and Lehi in their midst. The flaming fire did not harm them or touch the prison walls, filling them with indescribable joy and glory. The Holy Spirit descended upon them, filling their hearts with a fiery sensation, enabling them to speak marvelous words.

A pleasant voice, almost a whisper, spoke to them, proclaiming peace due to their faith in the Well Beloved, who existed from the foundation of the world. Hearing this, they cast their eyes upwards, witnessing the heavens opening and angels descending to minister unto them. About three hundred souls saw and heard these extraordinary events, receiving the command to go forth without marveling or doubting.

They obeyed, ministering to the people, and sharing all they had witnessed and heard. The convincing evidence led most Lamanites to believe in them. Those convinced renounced their weapons of war, as well as their hatred and the traditions of their fathers. Ultimately, they yielded their lands to the Nephites, embracing a transformation brought about by the overwhelming evidence of divine intervention.

Chapter Six.

In the sixty-second year of the judges' reign, various events unfolded, leading to a significant shift in the righteousness of the Lamanites compared to the Nephites. The majority of the Lamanites embraced righteousness with unwavering faith, surpassing that of the Nephites, who, unfortunately, saw an increase in hardness, impenitence, and widespread wickedness. Despite this, the church members found joy in the conversion of the Lamanites and fostered fellowship and unity.

Many Lamanites, including Nephi and Lehi, traveled to Zarahemla, sharing their conversion stories, and encouraging faith and repentance. Powerful preaching influenced many to humble themselves before God. As a result, the sixty-third year concluded with peace prevailing throughout the land, allowing free movement and trade among the Nephites and Lamanites, leading to prosperity for both nations.

Both Lehi and Mulek lands thrived economically, amassing wealth in gold, silver, and precious metals. Abundant harvests, flourishing livestock, and industrious women skilled in crafting textiles marked a time of peace and prosperity during the sixty-fourth year.

The sixty-fifth year brought further joy, peace, extensive preaching, and prophecies. However, in the sixty-sixth year, Cezoram, the chief judge, and his appointed son were murdered, ending the year on a somber note.

The sixty-seventh year witnessed a return to wickedness among the people. Long blessed with material wealth, they now became obsessed with riches, leading to secret murders, robberies, and plundering. Kishkumen and Gadianton formed a band of robbers, infiltrating both Nephite and Lamanite societies. Despite the Lamanites' efforts to eradicate them, some Nephites joined forces with the robbers, establishing secret oaths and covenants to protect each other in their illicit activities.

These secret societies, originating from Gadianton and influenced by dark forces, posed a serious threat. Alma, foreseeing their destructive potential, warned against disclosing their secrets. These clandestine oaths, inspired by the same malevolent being that enticed Adam and Cain, continued to spread wickedness and secret murders through the generations.

The Nephites succumbed to these temptations, turning away from righteousness, embracing idolatry, and dwindling in unbelief. In contrast, the Lamanites grew in their knowledge of God, adhering to His commandments and walking in truth. The Spirit of the Lord withdrew from the Nephites due to their wickedness, while the Lamanites received an outpouring of the Spirit because of their willingness to believe.

The Lamanites, led by the Spirit, hunted down and preached to the Gadianton robbers, utterly destroying them among their own people. On the contrary, the Nephites, enticed by the robbers, supported and joined them, allowing the secret combinations to gain control of the government. In their pursuit of power, these corrupt leaders oppressed the poor and humble followers of God, leading the Nephites to a perilous state, ripe for everlasting destruction. Thus, the sixty-eighth year concluded with a grim outlook for the people of Nephi.

THE PROPHECY of NEPHI, the son of Helaman.

God warns the Nephites that His anger will come upon them, leading to complete devastation unless they repent of their wicked ways.

God afflicts the Nephi people with pestilence, prompting them to repent and seek Him.

Samuel, a Lamanite, delivers prophecies to the Nephites.
(Chapters 7-16)

Chapter Seven.

In the sixty-ninth year of the judges' reign over the Nephite people, Nephi, Helaman's son, returned to Zarahemla from the northern land. He had preached God's word and prophesied among the northern people, but they rejected him. Unable to stay, he returned to his homeland. Witnessing widespread wickedness and the Gadianton robbers corrupting the judgment-seats, Nephi felt sorrow in his heart. The people, in a state of great wickedness, allowed the Gadianton robbers to take control, ignoring God's commandments and acting unjustly. They condemned the righteous, let the guilty go unpunished for money, and held positions of power to indulge in adultery, theft, and murder.

This iniquity had swiftly overtaken the Nephites, and Nephi, distressed, exclaimed: Oh, that I could have lived in the days of my father Nephi, when the people were righteous and obedient to God's commandments! My soul would have rejoiced in the righteousness of my brethren in those days. But these are my days, and my soul is filled with sorrow because of my brethren's wickedness.

As Nephi poured out his soul on a tower in his garden, certain men passing by observed him and spread the word. The people gathered to discover the cause of his mourning.

When Nephi addressed the multitude, he expressed his deep sorrow for their iniquities. He asked them why they had gathered, offering to reveal their sins. They had gathered because of his mourning, and he admonished them for giving in to the devil's influence.

Nephi urged them to repent, questioning how they could succumb to the temptations leading to eternal misery: O repent ye, repent ye! Why will ye die? Turn ye unto the Lord your God. Why has he forsaken you?

Their hardened hearts and refusal to heed the voice of the good shepherd had provoked God's anger. Instead of gathering, they would be scattered and become prey for wild beasts if they did not repent. Forgetting God despite His deliverance, they sought worldly gain, committing various sins.

Nephi warned of impending woe unless they repented. The great city and others in their possession would be taken away without divine strength. He emphasized their focus on wealth, leading to murder, plunder, theft, false witness, and all manner of iniquity. If they did not repent, the cities in their possession would be taken away, as the Lord would not grant strength against enemies. The Lord would only show His strength to the repentant, and Nephi foresaw a better fate for the Lamanites than for them.

The Lamanites were more righteous and had not sinned against the great knowledge received. The Lord would be merciful to them, while the Nephites faced destruction without repentance. Woe

was pronounced due to the abomination associated with the secret band of Gadianton. Pride, fueled by excessive wealth, invited further woe. Woe awaited them because of their wickedness and abominations. Repentance was the only way to avoid perishing and losing their lands. Nephi testified to the truth of these revelations, understanding it through God's communication.

Chapter Eight.

Once Nephi uttered these words, there were judges among the people who also were members of the clandestine group of Gadianton. They became infuriated and loudly accused Nephi, demanding: Why do you not apprehend this man and bring him forward for condemnation, in accordance with the crimes he has committed? Why do you tolerate this man, hearing him rail against our people and our laws? Nephi had addressed them about the corruption of their laws, speaking on many matters that couldn't be recorded. However, everything he said aligned with God's commandments.

The judges were angered because he openly discussed their secret, dark deeds. Yet, they refrained from laying hands on him, fearing the people's outcry against them. So, they appealed to the people, saying: Why do you allow this man to condemn us all to destruction? He predicts the capture of our great cities, leaving us with no place in them. We know this is impossible, for we are powerful, and our cities are great. Our enemies cannot overcome us.

They incited the people to anger against Nephi, sparking disputes among them. Some defended him, saying: Leave this man alone; he is good, and what he says will surely happen unless we repent. Indeed, all the judgments he testified will come upon us because he accurately spoke about our iniquities. He knows both our sins and what will befall us; If he weren't a prophet, he couldn't have testified about these things.

The people seeking to destroy Nephi were restrained by fear, preventing them from laying hands on him. So, he continued speaking, having gained favor in the eyes of some, causing the rest to fear. Thus, he spoke further, saying: Brothers, haven't you read that God granted power to Moses to part the Red Sea, allowing the Israelites to pass through on dry ground, while the Egyptian armies drowned?

If God gave such power to Moses, why do you argue among yourselves that He hasn't given me power to know the judgments that will befall you unless you repent? You not only reject my words but also those of our fathers, including Moses, who spoke of the Messiah's coming. Moses bore witness to the Son of God's arrival, just as he lifted the brazen serpent in the wilderness; similarly, the Son of God will be lifted up. Those who look upon the Son of God with faith and contrition will have eternal life, just like those who looked at the serpent lived.

Moses testified to these things, as did all the holy prophets from his time to Abraham's. Abraham rejoiced, having seen His coming. Abraham knew these things, and many before him, called by God's order and anticipating redemption for many thousand years before His arrival.

Since Abraham's time, many prophets, including Zenos, Zenock, Ezias, Isaiah, and Jeremiah, testified boldly. Jeremiah prophesied Jerusalem's destruction, which indeed occurred. Will you deny Jerusalem's destruction or the slaying of Zedekiah's sons, except for Mulek? The descendants of Zedekiah are among us, having been driven out of Jerusalem.

But there's more— Our father Lehi was expelled from Jerusalem for testifying about these things. Nephi, too, testified, as did almost all our fathers until now. They anticipated Christ's coming

and rejoiced in His future day. He is God, with them, revealing Himself, redeeming them, and receiving glory for what is to come.

Now, you know these things and cannot deny them unless you lie. By rejecting these truths despite abundant evidence, you have sinned. Instead of laying up treasures in heaven, where corruption and uncleanness cannot reach, you are amassing wrath against the day of judgment. Due to your murders, fornication, and wickedness, you are ripening for everlasting destruction. Unless you repent, it will soon be upon you, indeed, it is now at your doors.

Go to the judgment seat, search and see—your judge is murdered, lying in his blood, killed by his brother, who seeks to take his place. Both belong to your secret band, led by Gadianton and the evil one intent on destroying men’s souls.

Chapter Nine.

After Nephi spoke these words, five among them hurried to the judgment-seat. As they went, they discussed among themselves, saying: Let’s find out for certain if this man is truly a prophet and if God has commanded him to prophesy such extraordinary things to us. Frankly, we don’t believe he has; we don’t believe he’s a prophet. However, if what he said about the chief judge’s death is true, then we’ll believe the other things he spoke.

With great speed, they reached the judgment-seat and found the chief judge lying on the floor, covered in blood. Astonished beyond measure, they hadn’t believed Nephi’s words about the chief judge. Witnessing the truth, fear gripped them, realizing that all the judgments Nephi had spoken might come upon the people. They trembled, and fainted to the ground.

Immediately after the judge’s murder—stabbed by his brother in secret—his brother fled, and servants ran to inform the people, crying out about the murder. The people gathered at the judgment-seat and were astonished to see the five men who had fallen to the ground.

Unaware of the multitude gathered at Nephi’s garden, they concluded: These men must be the murderers. God has struck them down; they couldn’t escape. They seized and bound the five, casting them into prison. A proclamation announced the judge’s death and the capture of the murderers.

The next day, people assembled to mourn and fast at the burial of the slain chief judge. Judges from Nephi’s garden, who heard his words, also gathered for the burial. They asked the people: Where are the five sent to inquire about the chief judge’s death? The people replied: We don’t know about those five, but we’ve imprisoned five murderers.

The judges insisted on bringing them, discovering they were the ones sent. The judges questioned them about the matter, and they recounted everything, saying: We ran to the judgment-seat and saw exactly as Nephi testified. We were so astonished that we fell to the ground. When we recovered, they threw us into prison. Regarding the murder, we don’t know who did it. We ran as you requested, and indeed, he was dead, just as Nephi said.

The judges explained the situation to the people, accusing Nephi. They said: Nephi must have conspired to kill the judge, intending to declare it to convert us to his faith, make himself a great man chosen by God, and a prophet. We’ll expose this man; he’ll confess his fault, revealing the true murderer of the judge.

Despite being released on the day of the burial, the five rebuked the judges for their accusations against Nephi, confounding them. Nevertheless, Nephi was seized, bound, and brought before the multitude. They questioned him in various ways to catch him and accuse him to death. They said:

You're an accomplice. Who is the man you conspired with to commit this murder? Tell us, acknowledge your fault. Here is money, take it and we'll grant you your life.

Nephi responded: O fools, uncircumcised of heart, blind and stiff-necked people, do you know how long the Lord your God will tolerate your sinful ways? You should mourn for the impending great destruction unless you repent. You accuse me of conspiring to murder Seezoram, our chief judge, because I testified about the wickedness among you. Your anger stems from my revelation of the sign, and now you seek to destroy my life.

I'll show you another sign, and see if you still seek to destroy me in this matter. Go to Seantum, Seezoram's brother, and ask him: Has Nephi, the alleged prophet predicting evil for this people, conspired with you to murder Seezoram, your brother? He'll say no. Ask him: Have you murdered your brother? He'll stand with fear, not knowing what to say, denying the accusation.

Examine him, and you'll find blood on the skirts of his cloak. Ask: Where does this blood come from? Isn't it your brother's blood? He'll tremble, turn pale as death seems upon him. Say: Your fear and paleness reveal your guilt. Greater fear will come upon him, and he'll confess without denying the murder. He'll declare that I, Nephi, know nothing about the matter, except what God revealed to me. You'll then know I'm an honest man sent from God.

They followed Nephi's instructions, and the words he spoke proved true. The accused denied and confessed, leading to the release of the five and Nephi. Some Nephites believed in Nephi's words, while others believed due to the testimony of the five, who had converted in prison. Some among the people proclaimed Nephi as a prophet, while others declared him a god, reasoning that only a god could know all things, having revealed the thoughts of their hearts, and exposed the true murderer of their chief judge.

Chapter Ten.

A division arose among the people, causing them to scatter in different directions and leave Nephi alone, standing in their midst.

Nephi went toward his house, reflecting on the things the Lord had revealed to him. While pondering, burdened by the wickedness, secret darkness, murders, plundering, and various iniquities of the Nephite people, a voice spoke to him. The voice declared: Blessed art thou, Nephi, for your unwearied declaration of the word I have given you to this people. You have not feared them or sought your own life, but sought my will and kept my commandments.

Because of your unwearied efforts, I will bless you forever, making you mighty in word and deed, in faith and works. All things shall be done according to your word, as long as it aligns with my will. I declare unto thee, Nephi, and in the presence of mine angels, that you shall have power over this people, to smite the earth with famine, pestilence, and destruction according to their wickedness. I give you power—what you seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven, and what you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. You shall have power among this people. If you say to this temple: Be rent in twain, it shall be done. If you say to this mountain: Be cast down and become smooth, it shall be done. If you declare that God shall smite this people, it shall come to pass. Now, I command you to go and declare to this people, thus saith the Lord God Almighty: Unless you repent, you shall be smitten unto destruction.

After the Lord spoke these words to Nephi, he did not go to his house but returned to the scattered multitudes, declaring the word of the Lord concerning their destruction if they did not repent. Despite the great miracle Nephi performed in predicting the chief judge's death, the people hardened

their hearts and did not heed the Lord's words. Nephi continued to declare the Lord's message: Except ye repent, thus saith the Lord, ye shall be smitten even unto destruction.

However, the people still hardened their hearts, refusing to listen to his words. They reviled against him and sought to lay hands on him to cast him into prison. Yet, the power of God was with Nephi, preventing them from taking him to prison. The Spirit took him and conveyed him away from their midst. Thus, he went forth in the Spirit, from multitude to multitude, proclaiming the word of God until he had declared it to all or sent it among the people. Despite his efforts, they would not listen to his words, leading to contentions among themselves and causing them to slay one another with the sword. This marked the end of the seventy-first year of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.

Chapter Eleven.

In the seventy-second year of the judges' reign, contentions escalated, leading to wars throughout the land among all the people of Nephi. A secret band of robbers fueled this destruction and wickedness, causing the war to persist in the seventy-third year. In this year, Nephi cried to the Lord, pleading: O Lord, prevent the people's destruction by the sword. Instead, let a famine stir them to remember thee, leading them to repent and turn unto thee.

The Lord heeded Nephi's words, causing a great famine among all the people of Nephi in the seventy-fourth year. The famine continued, and the work of destruction shifted from the sword to famine. The destruction continued in the seventy-fifth year as the earth, smitten and dry, failed to yield grain, leading to widespread death, especially in the more wicked parts of the land.

Faced with imminent famine, the people remembered the Lord their God and Nephi's words, pleading with their leaders to ask Nephi to pray for the famine's end. The judges conveyed the people's request to Nephi, who, seeing their repentance and humility, prayed for relief from the famine.

Nephi prayed for the Lord's anger to be appeased in the destruction of the wicked men and sought the Lord's mercy, asking for rain to end the famine.

In the seventy-sixth year, the Lord turned away His anger, causing rain to fall, bringing forth fruit and grain. The people rejoiced, esteeming Nephi as a great prophet.

The people of Nephi prospered, covering the land from sea west to sea east, rebuilding waste places, and multiplying. Peace prevailed in the seventy-sixth and seventy-seventh years, with the church spreading and most people belonging to it.

Despite minor doctrinal contentions in the seventy-eighth year, peace continued. Strife arose in the seventy-ninth year, but Nephi and Lehi's teachings ended the strife.

In the eightieth year, dissenters and Lamanite descendants initiated war against the Nephites, becoming an exceedingly great band of robbers.

These robbers wreaked havoc, causing much destruction among the Nephites and Lamanites. An army was sent to stop the robbers but was driven back into their own lands.

In the eighty-first year, another attempt against the robbers resulted in destruction and their retreat. The robbers continued to increase, defying Nephite and Lamanite armies and causing great fear. The eighty-first year ended with the robbers still growing strong. The robbers visited various parts of the land, killing many, and capturing women and children. This great evil stirred the people to remember the Lord in the eighty-first year.

However, in the eighty-second year, the people began forgetting their Lord again, and wickedness increased in the eighty-third year. The eighty-fourth year saw no improvement, and the

people continued in their wicked ways. The eighty-fifth year ended, marking a period of increasing pride and wickedness, leaving the people ripe for destruction.

Chapter Twelve.

Thus, we can observe the falsehood and the instability of the hearts of humankind. We can see that the Lord, in His great and infinite goodness, blesses and prospers those who place their trust in Him. At the very time when He blesses His people—increasing their fields, flocks, herds, gold, silver, and all kinds of precious things, sparing their lives, delivering them from enemies, and softening the hearts of their foes—this is the time they harden their hearts. They forget the Lord, trample the Holy One underfoot, and do so because of their ease and exceedingly great prosperity. We see that unless the Lord chastens His people with afflictions, visits them with death, terror, famine, and various pestilences, they will not remember Him.

How foolish, vain, evil, devilish, quick to do iniquity, and slow to do good are the children of men. They are quick to heed the words of the evil one, set their hearts on the world's vain things, and are quick to be lifted up in pride. They boast, commit various iniquities, and are slow to remember the Lord their God and listen to His counsels. They are slow to walk in the paths of wisdom. They do not desire the Lord their God, who created them, to rule over them. Despite His great goodness and mercy, they set aside His counsels and reject Him as their guide.

How great is the nothingness of humankind; they are even less than the dust of the earth. The dust of the earth moves at the command of our great and everlasting God, dividing hither and thither. Hills and mountains tremble and quake at His voice. By the power of His voice, they break up and become smooth, like a valley. The whole earth shakes by the power of His voice. Foundations rock, even to the very center, by the power of His voice.

If He says to the earth: Move, it moves. If He says to the earth: Go back, lengthen the day for many hours, it is done. According to His word, the earth goes back, making it appear to man that the sun stands still. Surely, it is the earth that moves, not the sun.

If He says to the waters of the great deep: Be dried up, it is done. If He says to a mountain: Be raised up, come over, and fall upon that city to bury it, it is done. If a man hides a treasure in the earth, and the Lord says: Let it be accursed because of the iniquity of him who hid it, it becomes accursed. If the Lord says: Be thou accursed, that no man shall find thee from this time henceforth and forever—behold, no man getteth it henceforth and forever. If the Lord says to a man: Because of your iniquities, you shall be accursed forever, it shall be done. If the Lord says: Because of your iniquities, you shall be cut off from my presence, it will happen. Woe to him to whom the Lord says this; it will be unto him that will do iniquity, and he cannot be saved.

Therefore, for men to be saved, repentance has been declared. Blessed are those who will repent and hearken unto the voice of the Lord their God; they shall be saved. May God grant, in His great fullness, that men might repent and engage in good works, that they might be restored unto grace for grace according to their deeds. I wish all men might be saved, but we read that in the great and last day, some shall be cast out, cast off from the Lord's presence. They shall be consigned to a state of endless misery, fulfilling the words: Those who have done good shall have everlasting life, and those who have done evil shall have everlasting damnation. Amen.

THE PROPHECY of SAMUEL, *the* LAMANITE, to the Nephites. (Chapters 13-15)

Chapter Thirteen.

In the eighty-sixth year, the Nephites persisted in great wickedness, while the Lamanites diligently observed God's commandments according to the law of Moses. During this year, a Lamanite named Samuel came to the land of Zarahemla and began preaching repentance to the people. Despite preaching for many days, they cast him out, and he was about to return to his own land. However, the voice of the Lord instructed him to return and prophesy whatever came into his heart.

As the people would not allow him into the city, he went to the wall, stretched forth his hand, and loudly prophesied whatever the Lord placed in his heart. Samuel, the Lamanite, declared that he spoke the words of the Lord, revealing that the sword of justice hung over the people. He warned that within four hundred years, the sword of justice would fall upon them, bringing heavy destruction. The only salvation would be through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who would come into the world, suffer, and be slain for the people.

Samuel testified that an angel of the Lord had declared this to him, bringing glad tidings to his soul. He had been sent to declare the same to the people for their benefit, but they refused to receive him. The Lord declared that due to the hardness of the Nephites' hearts, unless they repented, He would take away His word, withdraw His Spirit, allow their enemies to turn against them, and visit them with the sword, famine, and pestilence within four hundred years. The Lord would visit them in fierce anger, and some of their enemies from the fourth generation would witness their utter destruction unless they repented. Repentance and a return to the Lord would turn away His anger, but woe unto those who refused to repent.

Samuel pronounced woe unto the great city of Zarahemla because many of its inhabitants would harden their hearts against the Lord.

The city would be spared for the sake of the faithful, but the time would come when, after casting out the righteous, the city would be ripe for destruction because of its wickedness and abominations. The city of Gideon and all the Nephite-possessed cities in the land round about were also warned of impending woe due to their wickedness and abominations. A curse would come upon the land because of the people's wickedness and abominations.

The Lord declared that treasures hidden in the earth would be irredeemable unless hidden by the righteous unto the Lord.

The people's hearts set on riches would lead them to hide their treasures in vain, as their riches would become slippery. In their days of poverty, they would cry to the Lord in vain. The Lord caused a curse on the land and their riches because the people did not remember Him and gave their hearts to pride and iniquities.

Woe unto the people for casting out and mocking the prophets, slaying them, and committing all manner of iniquity against them. The people hypocritically claimed they would not have slain the prophets if they lived in the days of their fathers. However, they were worse, for when a prophet came among them testifying of their sins, they sought ways to destroy him.

Yet, if a man encouraged them to follow their pride and desires, they accepted him as a prophet. They supported those who spoke flattering words, giving them substance and treasure.

The Lord condemned the wicked and perverse generation for following foolish and blind guides, choosing darkness over light. The anger of the Lord was kindled against them, leading to the cursed land due to their iniquity. The Lord cursed their riches, making them unobtainable, and in their days of poverty, they would lose them. In vain, they would cry unto the Lord, facing desolation and sure destruction.

In that day, they would lament, wishing they had not killed the prophets and remembering the day the Lord gave them riches. They would experience the loss of tools and weapons, surrounded by demons and facing the consequences of their iniquities. They would cry in regret, wishing they had repented when the word of the Lord came to them.

However, their days of probation had passed, and they had procrastinated their salvation until it was too late. They sought happiness in iniquity, contrary to the righteousness of their great and Eternal Head. Samuel pleaded with the people to hear his words, praying for the anger of the Lord to turn away from them if they would repent and be saved.

Chapter Fourteen.

Samuel, the Lamanite, prophesied numerous things that cannot be recorded. He declared to them a sign: In five more years, the Son of God would come to redeem all who believed in His name.

As a sign of His coming, there would be great lights in heaven, so much so that there would be no darkness in the night before His arrival, appearing as if it were day. This sign would consist of one day, a night, and another day without darkness, signifying His birth. Additionally, a new star would arise, an unprecedented sign. Many more signs and wonders in heaven were promised.

These signs would be so astonishing that people would fall to the earth in amazement. Whoever believed in the Son of God would receive everlasting life. Samuel conveyed the Lord's command to proclaim repentance and prepare the way of the Lord.

Due to his Lamanite heritage and the hardness against his message, the people sought to destroy him, casting him out. Samuel ascended the walls to deliver his message about the judgments awaiting them due to their iniquities and the conditions of repentance. He wanted them to know about the coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Creator, to help them believe in His name.

Another sign he presented was that of Christ's death. Christ had to die for salvation, bringing about the resurrection of the dead and enabling humanity to return to the Lord's presence. This death initiated the redemption from the spiritual death caused by the fall of Adam. Christ's resurrection brought all mankind back into the presence of the Lord. Repentance became a condition, sparing those who repented but resulting in spiritual death for those who didn't. Samuel urged repentance to avoid condemnation and the second death.

Another sign, indicating Christ's death, would be darkness covering the land for three days, including the sun, moon, and stars refusing to give light. Thunderings, lightnings, earthquakes, and rocks breaking apart would accompany His death. The earth's surface would be permanently altered, with mountains becoming valleys and vice versa.

There would be great tempests, cities becoming desolate, and highways breaking up. Graves would open, yielding up their dead, and many saints would appear to many.

An angel foretold these events, specifying the duration of thunderings and lightning. Darkness would cover the earth for three days during the tempest. The angel stated that many would witness even greater things to eliminate unbelief among the people. This was to ensure salvation for believers and righteous judgment for non-believers, who brought condemnation upon themselves.

Samuel reminded them that those who perished or committed iniquity did so unto themselves, emphasizing their freedom to choose between good and evil. God had granted them the knowledge to distinguish between good and evil, allowing them the agency to choose life or death and to be restored accordingly.

Chapter Fifteen.

My beloved brethren, I want to emphasize that unless you repent, your homes will be deserted. If repentance doesn't occur, your women will experience great sorrow while nursing. Fleeing will be attempted, but there will be no refuge. Woe to those with child, for they will be burdened and unable to escape, trodden down and left to perish. Woe to the people called the Nephites if they don't repent when witnessing the signs and wonders shown to them. Despite being a chosen people loved and chastened by the Lord, they must repent.

Lamanites, on the other hand, were hated due to their continual evil deeds, stemming from the iniquity of their fathers' traditions. Salvation reached them through Nephite preaching, and the Lord prolonged their days for this purpose. The majority of Lamanites walk circumspectly, observing God's commandments, statutes, and judgments. They diligently strive to bring their brethren to the truth, resulting in daily additions to their numbers. Many have embraced the truth, forsaking the wicked traditions of their fathers, believing in the holy scriptures and prophecies. This faith and repentance bring a change of heart.

Those who experience this transformation are firm and steadfast in the faith, avoiding sin even to the point of allowing themselves to be trodden down and slain by enemies rather than lifting their swords. Due to their steadfastness and enlightenment, the Lord blesses them and prolongs their days, even in the face of their iniquity.

Despite potential dwindling in unbelief, the Lord promises the restoration of the Lamanites in the latter times, showing mercy amid afflictions and scattering. According to prophecy, they will be brought back to the true knowledge of their Redeemer and numbered among His sheep.

The Nephites are warned that it will be better for the Lamanites unless they repent. If the mighty works shown to the Nephites had been presented to the Lamanites, those who dwindled in unbelief due to their fathers' traditions, they wouldn't have fallen into unbelief again. The Lord declares that He won't utterly destroy the Lamanites; they will return to Him in the day of His wisdom. Regarding the Nephites, the Lord warns that if they don't repent and follow His will, they will be utterly destroyed due to their unbelief, despite the many mighty works performed among them.

Chapter Sixteen.

Many heard the words of Samuel, the Lamanite, on the city walls. Those who believed went to seek Nephi, confessing their sins and desiring baptism. Those who disbelieved were angry and threw stones and shot arrows at Samuel, but the Spirit protected him.

Seeing they couldn't harm him, more believed, going to Nephi for baptism. Nephi baptized, prophesied, preached, and performed miracles, declaring repentance and the imminent coming of Christ. He warned of future events so they would believe, leading repentant believers to seek baptism.

Those who didn't believe cried to their captains to capture Samuel, claiming he had a devil preventing them from harming him. Samuel escaped and preached in his own land. He was never heard of again among the Nephites, marking the end of the eighty-sixth year.

The eighty-seventh year concluded, with most people remaining in pride and wickedness, and a few walking circumspectly. Through the eighty-ninth year, people grew more hardened in iniquity, defying God's commandments.

The ninetieth year brought great signs and wonders, fulfilling the prophets' words. Angels appeared to wise men with glad tidings. Scriptures began to be fulfilled. Despite this, people, except for the most believing, hardened their hearts, relying on their own strength and wisdom.

They doubted the fulfillment of prophecies and reasoned that Christ wouldn't reveal Himself to them as in Jerusalem. They believed it was a wicked tradition to keep them ignorant and dependent on others for their knowledge. Disturbed by foolish thoughts, Satan stirred them up, spreading rumors and contentions. Despite signs and miracles, Satan gained a stronghold on their hearts.

The ninetieth year under the judges concluded. This marks the end of the book of Helaman, according to the record of Helaman and his sons.