

Alma 1

Chapter 1st

The account of Alma who was the Son of Alma
the First and Chief Judge over the people of Nephi
& also the high Priest over the Church.

an account of the Reign of the Judges
and the wars & contentio^{ns} among the people,

And also an account of a war between the Nephites & the Lamanites
According to the Record of Alma the first and Chief Judge ——

¹Now It came to pass that
in the first Year of the Reign of the Judges over the people of Nephi
from this time forward,
King Mosiah having gone the way of all the Earth
haveing warred a good warfare
walking uprightly before God
leaveing no one to Reign in his stead
nevertheless he established Laws
& they were acknowledged before the people
therefore they were obliged to abide by the Laws which he had made.

²And It came to pass that
in the first Year of the Reign of Alma in the Judgment seat,
there was as man brought before him to be Judged
a man which was large & was noted for his much strength
³& he had gone about among the people
Preaching to them that which he termed to be the word of God,
bearing down against the Church
declareing unto the people
that every Priest & teacher had aught to become popular
& they aught not to labar with their hands
but that they had aught to be supported by the people

⁴And he also testified unto the people
that all mankind should be saved at the last day
& that they need not fear nor tremble
but that they might lift up their heads & rejoice
for the Lord had created all men & had also redeemed all men
& in the end all men should have Eternal Life,

⁵And it came to pass that he did teach these things so much
that many did believe on his words
even so many that they began to support him & give him Money

⁶& he began to be lifted up in the pride of of his heart
& to wear very Costly Apparel
Yea & even began to establish a Church after the manner of his Preaching.

⁷And it came to pass
as he was going to preach to those who believed on his word
he met a man which belonged to the Church of God,
Yea even one of their teachers
& he began to contend with him sharply
that he might lead away the people of the Church,
but the man withstood him,
admonishing him with the words of God.
⁸Now the name of the man was Gideon
& it was him that was an instrument in the hands of God
in delivering the people of Limhi out of bondage
⁹now because Gideon withstood him with the words of God,
he was wroth with Gideon & drew his sword & began to smite him,
now Gideon being stricken with many Years
therefore he was not Able to withstand his blows
therefore he was Slain by the sword
¹⁰& the man who slew him was taken by the people of the Church
& was brought before Alma to be Judged
according to the crimes which he had committed,

¹¹& it came to pass that
he stood before Alma & pled for himself with much boldness,
¹²but Alma said unto him
behold this is the first time that Priestcraft has been Introduced among this people
& behold thou art not only guilty of Priestcraft
but Endeavored to enforce it by the sword
& were priestcraft to be enforced among this people
it would prove their entire destruction,
¹³and thou hast shed the blood of a Righteous man
Yea a man which has done much good among this people
& were we to spare thee
his blood would come upon us; for Vengonce,
¹⁴therefore thou art condemned to die
according to the Law which has been given us by Mosiah our last King
& they have been acknowledged by this people
therefore this people must abide by the Law,
¹⁵& it came to pass that they took him,
& his name was Nehor
& they carried him upon the top of the hill Manti
& there he was caused
or rather did Acknowledge between the Heavens & the Earth
that what he had taught to the people was contrary to the word of God
& there he suffered an ignominious Death,

¹⁶Nevertheless this did not put an end to the spreading of Priestcraft through the land
for there was many which loved the vain things of the world
& they went forth preaching false Doctrines
& this they did for the sake of riches & honor

¹⁷ Nevertheless they durst not lie if it were known for fear of the Law,
For Lyars were punished,
therefore they pretended to preach according to their belief
& ~~they~~ now the Law could have no power on any man for their belief
¹⁸ & they durst not steal for fear of the Law
for such were punished
neither durst they Rob nor murder
for he that Murdereth was punished unto death,

¹⁹ But it came to pass that
whosoever did not belong to the Church of God began to persecute those
that did belong to the church of God & had taken upon them the name of Christ
²⁰ yea they did persecute them & afflict them with all manner of words
& this because of their humility
because they were not proud in their own eyes
& because they did impart the word of God one with another
without Money & without price.

²¹ Now there was a strict Law among the people of the church
that there should not any man belonging to the Church
arise & persecute those that did not belong to the Church
& that there should be no persecution among themselves,

²² Nevertheless there were many among them who began to be proud
And began to contend warmly with their adversaries even unto blows
Yea they would smite one another with their fists,

²³ now this was in the second Year of the Reign of Alma
& it was a cause of much affliction to the Church
Yea it was the cause of much trial with the Church

²⁴ for the hearts of many were hardened
& their names were blotted out
that they were remembered no more among the people of God,
and also many withdrew themselves from among them,

²⁵ now this was a great trial to those that did stand fast in the ~~in the~~ faith,
Nevertheless the were stedfast & immoveable
in keeping the commandments of God
& they bore with patience the persecution which was heaped upon them

²⁶ & when the Priests left their labour
to impart the word of God unto the people
the people also left their labours to hear the word of God
& when the priest had imparted unto them the word of God
they all returned again diligently unto their labors & the priest
not esteeming himself above his hearers
for the preacher was no better than the hearer,
neither was the Teacher Any better than the learner
& thus they were all Equal,
& they did all labour every man according to his strength

²⁷& they did impart of their substance
every man according to that which he had
to the poor & the needy & the sick & the Afflicted
& they did not wear Costly apparel yet they were neat & comely

²⁸And thus they did establish the affairs of the Church
& thus they began to have continual peace again.
notwithstanding all their persecutions,

²⁹& now because of the s^teadiness of the Church
they began to exceeding rich
having Abundance of all things whatsoever they stood in need,
Abundance of Flocks & herds & fatlings of every kind
& also abundance of Grain & of gold & of Silver & of precious things
& abundance Silk & fine twined linen & all manner of good homely cloth,

³⁰& thus in their prosperous circumstances
they did not Send away which was naked that was hungry
or that was athirst or that was sick or that had not been nourished
& they did not set their hearts upon riches,
therefore they were liberal to all
both old & young both bond & free both Male & female
whether out of the Church or in the Church
having no respects to persons, as to those who stood in need

³¹and thus they did prosper & become far more wealthy
than those who did not belong to their Church,

³²for those who did not belong to their Church
did Indulge themselves in sorceries & in Idolitry or Idleness
& in bablings and in envyings & strife And wearing costly apparel
being lifted up in the pride of their own eyes
persecuting lying thieving robing
committing whoredoms & murdering & all mnner of wickedness.
Nevertheless the Law was put in force upon all those who did transgress It
in as much as it were possible,

³³And it came to pass that by ~~thus~~ thus exercising the Law upon them
every man suffering according to that whic^h he had done
they became more still
& durst not commit any wickedness if it were Known
therefore there was much Peace among the people of Nephi
until the fifth year of the Reign of the Judges,