

Alma 18

¹& it came to pass that king Lamoni caused
that his servants should stand forth & testify to all the things
which they had seen concerning the matter

²& when they had all testified to the things which they had seen
& had learned of the faithfulness of Ammon in preserving his flocks
& also of his great power in contending against those who sought to slay him
he was astonished exceedingly & saith
surely this is more then a^d man
behold is not this the great spirit
which doth send such great punishments upon this people
because of their murders

³& they answered the king & said
whether he be the great spirit or a man we know not
but this m^{uch} ~~we~~ we do know
that he cannot be slain by the enemies of the king
neither can they scatter the kings flocks when he is with us
because of his expertness & great strength
therefore we know that he is a friend to the king
& now O king we do not believe that a man hath such great power
for we know that he cannot be slain

⁴& now when the king heard these words
he said unto them
now I know that it is the great spirit
& he hath come down at this time to preserve your lives
that I might not slay you as I did your brethren
now this is the great spirit of which our fathers have spoken
⁵now this was the tradition of Lamoni which he had received from his father
that there was a great spirit
not withstanding they believed in a great spirit
they supposed that whatsoever they did was right
nevertheless Lamoni began to fear exceedingly
with fear le^ast he had done wrong in slaying his servants

⁶for he had slew many of them
because their brethren had scattered their flocks at the place of water
& thus because they had had their flocks scat^tered
they were slain

⁷now it was the practice of the^{se} Lamanites
to stand by the waters of Sebus to s^{catter} ~~et~~ the flocks of the people
that thereby they might drive away many that were scattered unto their own land
it being a practice of plunder among them

⁸& it came to pass that king Lamoni inquired of his servants saying
where is this man that hath such great power

⁹& they sayeth unto him
behold he is feeding thy horses
now the king had commanded his servants
previous to the time of the watering of their flocks
that they should prepare his horses & his charriots
& conduct him forth to the land of Nephi
for there had been a great feast appointed at the land of Nephi
by the father of Lamoni who was king over all the land

¹⁰now when king Lamoni heard
that Ammon was preparing his horses & his charriots
he was more astonished because of the faithfulness of Ammon saying
surely there has not been any servant among all my servants
that has been so faithful as this man
fore even he doth remember all my commandments to execute them

¹¹now I surely know that is the great spirit
& I would desire him that he come in unto ^{me}hee
but I darst not

¹²& it came to pass that
when Ammon had made ready the ^{horses & the} charriots
for the king & his servants
he went in unto the king
& he saw that the countenance of the King ^{was} ~~had~~ changed
therefore he was about to return out of his presance

¹³& one of the kings servants said unto him
rabbanah which is being interpreted powerful or great king
considering their kings to be powerful
& thus he said unto him
rabbanah the king desireth thee to stay

¹⁴therefore Ammon turned himself unto the king & saith unto him
what wilt thou that I should do for thee O king
& the king answered him not for the space of an hour according to their time
for he knew not what he should say unto him

¹⁵& it came to pass that Ammon said unto him again
what desirest thou of me
but the king answered him not

¹⁶& it came to pass that Ammon being filled with the spirit of God
therefore he perseived the thoughts of the king
& he saith unto him
is it because th^ot thou hast heard
that I defended thy servants & thy flocks
& slew seven of their brethren with the sling & with the sword
& smote off the arms of others
in order to defend thy flocks & thy servants
behold is it this that causeth thy marvelings

¹⁷I say unto you
what is it that thy marvelings are so great
behold I am a man & am thy servant
therefore whatsoever thou desirest Which is right that I do

¹⁸now when the king had heard these words he marveled again
for he beheld that Ammon could desern his thoughts
but notwithstanding this King Lamoni did open his mouth & said unto him
who art thou
art thou that great spirit which knows all things

¹⁹Ammon answered & said unto him

I am not

²⁰& the king saith

how knowest thou the thoughts of my heart
thou mayest speak boldly & tell me concerning these things
& also tell me by what power
ye slew & smote off the arms of my brethren that scatered my flocks

²¹& now if thou wilt tell me concerning these things
whatsoever thou desirest I will give unto thee
& if it were needed I would guard thee with my armies
but I know that thou art more powerful than all they
nevertheless whatsoever thou desirest of me
I will grant it unto thee

²²now Ammon being wise yet harmless
he saith unto Lamoni
wilt thou hearken unto my words
if I tell thee by what power I do these things
& this is the thing that I desire of thee

²³& the king answered him & said
yea I will believe all thy words
& thus he was caught with guile

²⁴& Ammon began to speak unto him with boldness & said unto him
believest thou that there is a God

²⁵& he answered unto him

I do not know what that meaneth

²⁶& then Ammon saith

believest thou that there is a great spirit

²⁷& he said yea

²⁸& Ammon saith

this is God

& Ammon saith unto him again
believest thou that this great spirit which is God
created all things which is in heaven & in the earth

²⁹ & he saith
yea I believe that he created all things which is in the earth
but I do not know the heavens
³⁰ & Ammon saith unto him
the heavens is a place where God dwells & all his holy angels
³¹ & king Lamoni saith
is it above the earth
³² & Ammon saith
yea & he looketh down upon all the children of men
& he knows all the thoughts & intents of the heart
for by his hand were they all created from the beginning

³³ & king Lamoni saith
I believe all these things which thou hast spoken
art thou sent from God
³⁴ Ammon saith unto him
I am a man
& man in the beginning was created after the image of God
& I am called by his holy spirit to teach these things unto this people
that they may be brought to a knowledge of that which is just & true
³⁵ & a portion of that spirit dwelleth in me
which gieveth me knowledge & also power
according to my faith & desires which is in God

³⁶ now when Ammon had said these words
he began to the creation of the world
& also to the creation of Adam
& told him all the things concerning the fall of man
& rehearsed & laid before him
the records of the holy scriptures of the people
& which had been spoken by the prophets
even down to the time that Lehi left Jerusalem
³⁷ & he also rehearsed unto them
for it was unto the king & to his servants
all the journeyings of their fathers in the wilderness
& all their sufferings with hunger & thirst & their travel .&C
³⁸ & he also rehearsed unto them
concerning the rebellions of Laman & Lemuel & the Sons of Ishmael
yea all their rebellions did he relate unto them
& he expounded unto them all the records & scriptures
from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem down to the present time
³⁹ but this is not all
for he expounded unto them the plan of redemption
which was prepared from the foundation of the ~~w~~^{world} ~~orld~~
& he also made known unto them concerning the coming of Christ
& all the works of the Lord did he make known unto them

⁴⁰ & it came to pass that
after he had said all these things & expounded them to the king
that the king believed all his words

⁴¹ & he began to cry unto the Lord saying
O Lord have mercy
according to thy abundant mercy
which thou hast had upon the people of Nephi
have upon me & my people

⁴² & now when he had said this
he fell unto the earth as if he were dead

⁴³ & it came to pass that his servants took him
& carried him in unto his wife & laid him upon a bed
& he lay as if he were dead
for the space of two days & two nights
& his wife & his Sons & his daughters mourned over him
after the manner of the Lamanites greatly lamenting his ~~loss~~^{loss}