

## Alma 53

<sup>1</sup>& it came to pass that they did set guards over the Prisoners of the Lamanites  
& did compel them to go forth & bury their dead  
yea & also the dead of the Nephites which were slain  
& Moroni placed men over them to guard them  
whilsts they should perform their labours

<sup>2</sup>& Moroni went to the <sup>1</sup>city of Mulek with Lehi  
& took command of the city & gave it unto Lehi  
now behold this Lehi was a man who had been with Moroni in the more part of all his Battles  
& he was a man like unto Moroni  
& they rejoiced in each others safety  
yea & they were beloved by each other  
& also beloved by all the people of Nephi

<sup>3</sup>& it came to pass that  
after the Lamanites had finished burying their dead  
& also the dead of the Nephites  
they were marched back into the land Bountiful  
& Teancum by the orders of Moroni caused  
that they should commence in labouring  
in digging a ditch around about the land or the city Bountiful  
<sup>4</sup>& he caused that they should build a breast work of timbers  
upon the inner bank of the ditch  
& they cast up dirt out of the ditch against the breast work of timbers  
& thus they did cause the Lamanites to labour  
until they had encircled the City of Bountiful around about  
with a strong wall of timbers & earth to an exceeding height

<sup>5</sup>& this City became an exceeding strong hold & ever after  
& in this city they did guard the Prisoners of the Lamanites  
yea even within a wall which they had caused them to build with their own hands  
now Moroni was compelled to cause the Lamanites to labour  
because it were easy to guard them while at their labour  
& he desired all his forces when he should make an attack upon the Lamanites

<sup>6</sup>& it came to pass that Moroni had thus gained a victory  
over one of the greatest of the armies of the Lamanites  
& had obtained possession of the city of Mulek  
which was one of the strongest holds of the Lamanites in the land of Nephi  
& thus he had also built a strong hold to retain these Prisoners

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<sup>1</sup> OM Header = Moroni Causes the Lamanite  
city Bountiful

<sup>7</sup>& it came to pass that  
he did no more attempt a Battle with the Lamanites en that year  
but he dit employ his men in preparing for war  
yea & in makeing fortifications to guard against the Lamanites  
yea & also delivering therr women & therr ~~Chi~~ children from famine & afflection  
& proveding food for them armees

<sup>8</sup>& now it came to pass that the armies of the Lamanites on the ~~Se~~ west Sea South  
while in the absence of Moroni  
on account of some intreague amongst the ~~Lamanites~~ Nephites  
which caused dissensions amongst them  
had gaened some ground over the Nephites  
yea insomuch that they had obtained fœosssion  
of a numler of therr Cities in that part of the land

<sup>9</sup>& thus because of iniquity amongst themselves  
yee because <sup>of</sup> desensions & intreague among themselves  
they were plased in ~~an~~ the most ~~gen~~<sup>dangerous</sup> ~~erous~~ cercunsstances

<sup>10</sup>& now behold I thave some what to say concerning the People of ~~M~~ Ammon  
which in the beginning were Lamanites  
but by Amoon & his Brethrem  
or rather by the power & word of God  
they had been co<sup>nverted unto the Lord & 2</sup>

& they had been brought down into the land of Zararemla  
& had ever since been protected by the Nephites

<sup>11</sup>& because of their oath  
they ~~d~~ had been kept from taking up arms against their brethreen  
~~& w~~ for they had taken an oath that they never would shed blood more  
& accordeng to their oath they would have perished  
yea they would have suffered themselves  
to have fallen into the hands of their brethren  
had it not been for the pity & the excedeng love  
which Ammon & his brethren had had for them

<sup>12</sup>& for thes caught they were brought down into the land of Zarahemla  
& they ever had been proceched by the Nephites

<sup>13</sup>but it came to pass that  
when they saw the danger & the many afflictions & doribulations  
which the Nephites ~~d~~<sup>bore</sup> ~~id~~ for them  
they were moved with compassion  
& were desireous to take up arms in the defence of their country

<sup>14</sup>but behold as they were about to take their weapons of war  
they were overpowered by the perswasiors of Helaman & his brethren  
for they were about to brake the oath which they had made

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<sup>2</sup> OM Header = hites take up arms in defence of  
tes & C

<sup>15</sup>& Helaman feared lest by so doing they should loose their souls therefore all those which had entered into this covenant were compeled be behold their Brethren wade through their afflictions in their dangerous cercumstances at this time

<sup>16</sup>but behold it came to pass they had many Sons which had not entered into a covenant that they would not take their weopons of war to depend themselves against ther enemies therefore they did assemble thenselves totether ot thes time as many as were able to take up arms & they called thenselves Nephites

<sup>17</sup>& they entered into a covenants to feight for the leberty of the Nephetes yea to protect the land unto the laying down of their leves yea even they covenanted that they never would give up therr liberty but they would fight in all cases to protect the Nephites & themselves from bongage

<sup>18</sup>now behold there were two thousand of those young men which entered into thes covenant & took their weapons of war to defend their country

<sup>19</sup>& now behold as they never had ~~th~~ hithento be<sup>e</sup>m a disadvantage to the Mephites they became now ot thes perioo of time allso a great support for they took there weapons of war & they would that Helaman should be ther leader

<sup>20</sup>& they were all yong men & they were exceding valiont for courage & allo for strength & activety but behold this was not all they were mem which were true at all times in whatsoever thing they were entrusted

<sup>21</sup>yea they were men of thruth & soberness for they had been taught to keep the commandments of God & to walk up rightly before hem

<sup>22</sup>& now it came to pass that Helamen did march at the head of his two ~~hu~~ thousand striplengs soldiers to the support of the People<sup>3</sup> in the Borders of the Land on the South by the west Sea

<sup>23</sup>& thus ended the twenty<sup>& ei</sup>ghth year of the Reign of the gudges over<sup>t</sup>the People of Nephi &c.

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<sup>3</sup> OM Header = Moroni sends ar Epistle