

Mosiah 8

¹& it came to pass that
after King Limhi had made an en of speaking to his People
for he spake many things unto them
& only a few of them have I written in this Book
he told his People all the things concerning their Brethren
which were in the land of Zarahemla
²& he caused that Ammon should stand up before the multitude
& rehearse unto them all that had happened unto their Brethren
from the time that Zeniff went up out of the land
even untill ^{the} time that he himself came up out of the land
³& he also rehearsed unto them the last words
which King Benjamin had taught them
& explained them to the People of King Limhi
so that they might understand all the words which he spake

⁴& it came to pass that after he had done all this
that King Limhi dismissed the multitude
& caused that they should return every one unto his own house
⁵& it came to pass that he caused that the plates
which contained the record of his People
from the time that they left the land of Zarahemla
should be brought before Ammon that he might read them
⁶now as soon as Ammon had read the record
the king inquired of him to know if he could interpret languagees
& Ammon told him that he could not

⁷& the king sayeth unto him
I being grieved for the afflictions of my People
I caused that forty & three of my People
should take a journey into the wilderness
that thereby they might find the land of Zarahemla
that we might appeal unto our Brethren to deliver us out of bondage
⁸& they were lost in the wilderness for the space of many days
yet they were diligent & found not the land of Zarahemla
but returned to this land
haveing traveled in a land among many waters
having discovered a land which was covered with bones of men & of beasts .&C.
& was also covered with ruins of buildings of every kind
having discovered a land which had been Peopled with a People
which were a numerous as the hosts of Israel
⁹& for a testimony that the things that they ~~had~~^{have} said ~~were~~^{is} true
they have brought twenty four plates which are filled with engraveings
& they are of pure Gold
¹⁰& behold also they have brought breast plates which are large
& they are of Brass & of copper & are perfectly sound

¹¹& again they have brought swords
the hilts thereof hath perished
& the blades thereof were cankered with rust

& there is no one ^{in the land} that is able to interpret the language
or the engravings that are on the plates
therefore I said unto the^e
canst thou translate

¹²& I say unto thee again
knowest thou of any one that can translate
for I am desire^{ous} ^{able} that these records should be translated into our language
for perhaps they will give us a knowledge of a remnant of the People
which have been destroyed
from whence these records came
or perhaps they will give us a knowledge of this very People
which hath been destroyed
& I am desirous to know the cause of their destruction

¹³now Ammon saith[;] unto him
I can assuredly tell thee O king of a man that can translate the records
for^{he} hath wherewith that he can look
& translate all records that are of ancient date
& it is a gift from God
& the things are called interpreters
& no man can look in them except he be commanded
lest he should look for that he had not ought & he should perish
& whosoever is commanded to look in them the same is called seer
¹⁴& behold the king of the People which is in the land of Zarahemla
is the man that is commanded to do these things
& which hath this high gift from God

¹⁵& the king saith that a seer is greater than a ^{Prophet} ~~Prop~~

¹⁶& Ammon saith that a seer is a revelator & a prophet also
& a gift which is greater can no man have
except he should possess the power of God

¹⁷but a seer can know of things which has past
& also of things which is to come
& by them shall all things be revealed
or rather shall secret things be made manifest
& hidden things shall come to light
& things ~~which~~ which ^{is} as not known shall be made known by them
& also things shall be made known by them
which otherwise could not be known

¹⁸thus God hath provided a means
that man through faith might work mighty miracles
therefore he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings

¹⁹& now when Ammon had made an end of speaking these words
the king rejoiced exceedingly & gave thanks to God saying
doubtless a great mystery is contained within these plates
& ~~th~~ & these interpreters was doubtless prepared
for the purpose of unfolding all such mysteries to the children of men

²⁰O how marvelous are the works of Lord
& how long doth he suffer with his People
yea & how blind & impenetrable
are the understandings of the children of men
for they will not seek wisdom
neither do they desire that she should rule over them

²¹yea they are as a wild flock which fleeth from the shepherd & scattereth
& are driven & are devoured by the beasts of the forest