

“Firm in the Faith of Christ”

Lesson
31
Summary

Alma 43 – 52

Scripture Summary:

Alma and his sons preach the word—The Zoramites and other Nephite dissenters become Lamanites—The Lamanites come against the Nephites in war—Moroni arms the Nephites with defensive armor—The Lord reveals to Alma the strategy of the Lamanites—The Nephites defend their homes, liberties, families, and religion—The armies of Moroni and Lehi surround the Lamanites. [About 74 B.C.]

Moroni commands the Lamanites to make a covenant of peace or be destroyed—Zerahemnah rejects the offer, and the battle resumes—Moroni’s armies defeat the Lamanites. [About 74—73 B.C.]

Helaman believes the words of Alma—Alma prophesies the destruction of the Nephites—He blesses and curses the land—Alma is taken up by the Spirit, even as Moses—Dissension grows in the Church. [73 B.C.]

Amalickiah conspires to be king—Moroni raises the title of liberty—He rallies the people to defend their religion—True believers are called Christians—A remnant of Joseph shall be preserved—Amalickiah and the dissenters flee to the land of Nephi—Those who will not support the cause of freedom are put to death. [Between 73 and 72 B.C.]

Amalickiah uses treachery, murder, and intrigue to become king of the Lamanites—The Nephite dissenters are more wicked and ferocious than the Lamanites.

Amalickiah incites the Lamanites against the Nephites—Moroni prepares his people to defend the cause of the Christians—He rejoiced in liberty and freedom and was a mighty man of God.

The invading Lamanites are unable to take the fortified cities of Ammonihah and Noab—Amalickiah curses God and swears to drink the blood of Moroni—Helaman and his brethren continue to strengthen the Church. [72 B.C.]

Moroni fortifies the lands of the Nephites—They build many new cities—Wars and destructions befell the Nephites in the days of their wickedness and abominations—Morianton and his dissenters are defeated by Teancum—Nephibah dies and his son Paboran fills the judgment-seat. [About 72—67 B.C.]

The king-men seek to change the law and set up a king—Paboran and the freemen are supported by the voice of the people—Moroni compels the king-men to defend their liberty or be put to death—Amalickiah and the Lamanites capture many fortified cities—Teancum repels the Lamanite invasion and slays Amalickiah in his tent. [About 67 B.C.]

Ammon succeeds Amalickiah as king of the Lamanites—Moroni, Teancum, and Lehi lead the Nephites in a victorious war against the Lamanites—The city of Mulek is retaken, and Jacob the Lamanite is slain. [About 66—64 B.C.]

Supplemental Holy Land and Jewish insights:

Modern Parallels: The politics and wars that follow in the chapters being studied show the use and abuse of both the justice and mercy examined in the previous lesson. There are parallels to Israel’s modern history as rights and obligations are being challenged and then balanced with ideologies and political aspirations. Israel is not seeking for monarchy or power over one ethnic group or another. Rather, an existence promised by God along with coexistence of others in the same land.

Justification for War: “Nevertheless, the Nephites were inspired by a better cause, for they were not fighting for monarchy nor power but they were fighting for their homes and their liberties, their wives and their children, and their all, yea, for their rites of worship and their church.” (*Alm a 43:45*)

Moroni’s “Cunning” and Israel’s “Apache Helicopters:” Zerahemna denied the reason for the Moroni’s success which was rooted in faith and in God-given destiny. He claimed that the Nephite’s weaponry and state-of-the-art military skills gave them an advantage over the Lamanites. A parallel to that can be seen in Israel’s modern history. Those who choose to fight against Israel deny Israel’s claim rooted in faith and in a God-given destiny. They also complain that the USA is giving state-of-the-art military aid to Israel, an unfair advantage over “Palestinians.”

One-third Sided with Violence and Force: It must be noted, however, that most of the Arabs under (and not under) “Palestinian Authority” do not wish to fight. Polls done in the area of the Palestinian Authority, repeatedly show that the popular vote for the Palestinian leader seems to be considerably less than a majority of the entire population. It generally show about one-third siding with violence and force. Please note that the figures were about the same in the “War in Heaven.”

A Reason for Not Beheading: For years I wondered what the reason was that Zarahemna’s life was spared . . . even when he attacked Moroni at the “Peace Conference.” Anyone traveling to Mayan ruins in Central America soon learns that in some “ball games” the winner gets decapitated as the audience witnesses this “exciting” event.

If Zarahemna would have been decapitated instead of receiving a “hair cut” – he would have been the “winner!” At least, his people, with such a lust for blood, would have interpreted it that way.

Demise of Dictatorships – Mutation of Monarchies: The ultimate resolution to conflict is following the instruction and counsel of the Messiah in accepting his eventual arrival and rule. Then the rights and obligations and the ideologies and political aspirations will be righteously balanced. Powers usurped by monarchies or dictatorships will disappear as the Savior appears and leads with justice and mercy.

Daniel Rona, born in Israel and living in Jerusalem has authored Old & New Testament and Book of Mormon Supplement Study Materials to be used in conjunction with the weekly LDS Gospel Doctrine Lesson study. NOTE: Three versions of the supplemental study materials are available *FREE* at www.HolyLandsRevealed.com. (Just click “LDS SUPPLEMENTS”)

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