



## 20b. The People of Zeniff and Noah in the Land of Nephi

Mosiah 7:1–11:19

*Abinadi before King Noah*

“And now, because of this great victory they were lifted up in the pride of their hearts; they did boast in their own strength, saying that their fifty could stand against thousands of the Lamanites; and thus they did boast, and did delight in blood, and the shedding of the blood of their brethren, and this because of the wickedness of their king and priests.” (Mosiah 11:19)

## “Come Follow Me” (Hymn 116, vv. 1, 4)

“Come, follow me,” the Savior said.  
Then let us in his footsteps tread,  
For thus alone can we be one  
With God’s own loved, begotten Son.

Not only shall we emulate  
His course while in this earthly state,  
But when we’re freed from present cares,  
If with our Lord we would be heirs.

## The People of Zeniff

- Expeditions to the Land of Nephi
  - “And now I would speak somewhat concerning a certain number who went up into the wilderness to return to the land of Nephi; for there was a large number who were desirous to possess the land of their inheritance. Wherefore, they went up into the wilderness. And **their leader being a strong and mighty man, and a stiffnecked man**, wherefore he caused a contention among them; and they were all slain, save fifty, in the wilderness, and **they returned again to the land of Zarahemla**. And it came to pass that **they also took others to a considerable number, and took their journey again into the wilderness.**” (Omni 1:27-29)
  - **Zeniff**, originally a scout for the first expedition, led the second and became king of the new colony in the Land of Nephi

11/7/2005

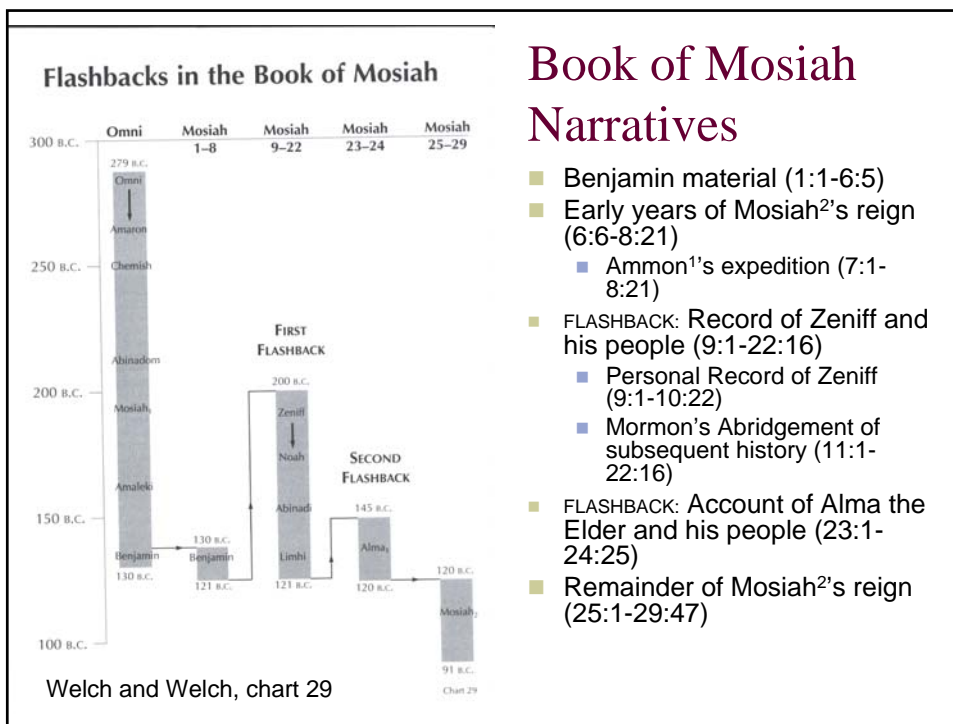
20b. The People of Zeniff and Noah in the Land of Nephi (Mosiah 7-11)

3

## Lands of Nephi and Zarahemla

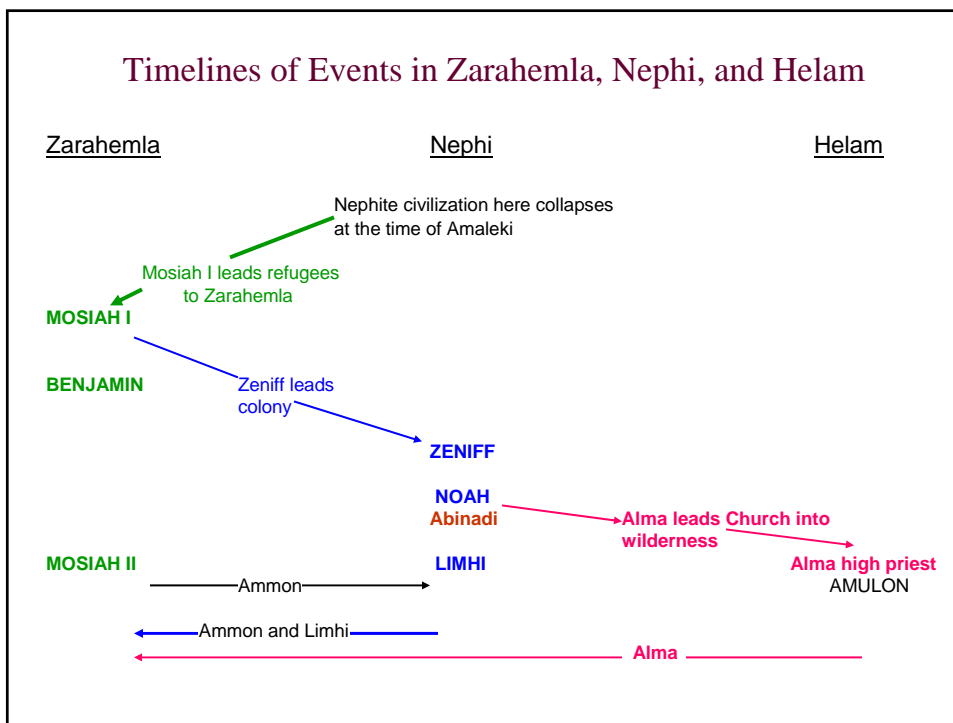


Book of Mormon Study Maps, © Scripture Creations (Lindon, UT)



## Book of Mosiah Narratives

- Benjamin material (1:1-6:5)
- Early years of Mosiah<sup>2</sup>'s reign (6:6-8:21)
  - Ammon<sup>1</sup>'s expedition (7:1-8:21)
- FLASHBACK: Record of Zeniff and his people (9:1-22:16)
  - Personal Record of Zeniff (9:1-10:22)
  - Mormon's Abridgement of subsequent history (11:1-22:16)
- FLASHBACK: Account of Alma the Elder and his people (23:1-24:25)
- Remainder of Mosiah<sup>2</sup>'s reign (25:1-29:47)



## Ammon<sup>1</sup> and Limhi's People

- Mosiah sends Ammon and a search party to the Land Nephi (7:1-6)
  - “And now, it came to pass that after king Mosiah had had continual peace for the space of three years, he was desirous to know concerning **the people who went up to dwell in the land of Lehi-Nephi**, or in the city of Lehi-Nephi; for his people had heard nothing from them from the time they left the land of Zarahemla; therefore, they wearied him with their teasings.” (Mosiah 7:1)
- Captured and interviewed by Limhi (7:7-16)
- Assembly of the Nephite colonists (7:17-8:4)
  - Limhi addresses his people, recounting their history and the promises of the Lord (7:17-33)
  - Ammon addresses Limhi's people, recounting the history of Zarahemla since their departure (8:1-4)
- Jaredite records
  - Limhi's scouts and the 24 Jaredite plates (8:5-12)

11/7/2005

20b. The People of Zeniff and Noah in the Land of Nephi (Mosiah 7-11)

7

## “A Seer is Greater than a Prophet . . .”

- Mosiah and Nephite **seers** (8:13-21)
  - “. . . A man that can translate the records; for he has wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date; and it is a gift from God. And the things are called interpreters . . . **And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called a seer.**” (8:13)
- “And Ammon said that a **seer** is a **revelator** and a **prophet** also; and a gift which is greater can no man have . . . A seer can know of things which are past, and also of things which are to come, and by them shall all things be revealed . . .” (8:16-17)
  - **Prophet—teacher of known truth** (Widtsoe *ER*, 258); **one who speaks in God's name; one who has the testimony of Jesus** (Rev. 19:10)
  - **Seer—a perceiver of hidden truth** (Widtsoe *ER*, 258-59); “**one who sees things as they really are**, sees with spiritual eyes (Moses 6:35-36); sees whatever is expedient in the past, present, or future to interpret or clarify eternal truths; includes **one who translates or brings forth scripture by the power of God**”
  - **Revelator—a bearer of new truth** (Widtsoe *ER*, 258); examples of Joseph or Daniel interpreting dreams, President Kimball receiving the priesthood revelation

11/7/2005

20b. The People of Zeniff and Noah in the Land of Nephi (Mosiah 7-11)

8

## Record of Zeniff and His People (9:1-22:16)

- *Headnote: "The Record of Zeniff—a An account of his people, from the time they left the land of Zarahemla until the time they were delivered out of the hands of the Lamanites."*
- Zeniff's Record (9:1-10:22)
  - Personal record of Zeniff, expedition leader/king > Mormon included a complete, unabridged transcription
  - First, unsuccessful attempt at re-colonizing the Land of Nephi (9:1-2)
  - Successful Nephite Settlement in the Land of Nephi (9:3-10:22)
    - treaty with King Laman<sup>2</sup> (9:3-10)
    - first battle with Lamanites (9:11-19)
    - prosperity (10:1-5)
    - war with Lamanites resumed (10:6-10)
    - end of Zeniff's reign (10:21-22)

11/7/2005

20b. The People of Zeniff and Noah in the Land of Nephi (Mosiah 7-11)

9

## Mormon's Abridgment of the Subsequent History of the People of Zeniff (11:1-22:16, *historical narrative*)

- Reign of wicked King Noah (11:1-19)
  - Political, economic, and religious policies (11:3-13)
    - Taxes and public building programs
    - Personal indulgence
    - Religious establishment to support the government
  - Desultory fighting with Lamanites (11:16-19)
- Ministry and Trial of Abinadi (11:20-17:20, next lecture)
  - Words of Abinadi and account of trial recorded by Alma the Elder, later abridged by Mormon

11/7/2005

20b. The People of Zeniff and Noah in the Land of Nephi (Mosiah 7-11)

10