

22. Contrasting Affairs in the Lands of Nephi and Helam

Mosiah 18–24

Alma Baptizing at the Waters of Mormon

“And now it came to pass that all this was done in Mormon, yea, by the waters of Mormon, in the forest that was near the waters of Mormon; yea, the place of Mormon, the waters of Mormon, the forest of Mormon, how beautiful are they to the eyes of them who there came to the knowledge of their Redeemer; yea, and how blessed are they, for they shall sing to his praise forever.” (Mosiah 18:30)

“Lead Me into Life Eternal” (Hymn 45)

Lead me into life eternal
By the gospel’s holy call.
Let thy promise rest upon me;
Grant me ready strength for all.

Father, all my heart I give thee;
All my service shall be thine.
Guide me as I search in weakness;
Let thy loving light be mine.

Hear me as I pray in
meekness;
Let my strength be as thy day.
Give me faith, the greater
knowledge;
Father, bless me as I pray.

The Waters of Mormon

- The Waters of Mormon
 - A borderland secluded from the Nephite colony
 - Our prophet-editor was named after the place because of what occurred there!
- Alma baptizes (18:7-16)
 - “As ye are **desirous to come into the fold of God**, and to **be called his people**, and **are willing to bear one another's burdens**, that they may be light . . . and **to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things** . . . what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord, **as a witness before him that ye have entered into a covenant with him, that ye will serve him and keep his commandments, that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you?**” (18:8-10)
- Alma's authority
 - “We may conclude that Alma held the priesthood before he, with others, became disturbed with King Noah. Whether this is so or not makes no difference because in the Book of Mosiah it is stated definitely that he had authority.” (Joseph Fielding Smith, *Answers to Gospel Questions*, 3.203)
- Alma baptizes Helam (and himself to signify recommitment) and a total of 204 people

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22. Contrasting Affairs in the Lands of Nephi and Helam (Mosiah 18-24)

3

Covenants of Baptism

- Practical Implications of “taking upon ourselves the name of Christ”
 - Come into the fold of Christ, be called the people of God (18:8)
 - Care for each other: bear each other's burdens, mourn with those who mourn, comfort those who need comfort (18:8-9; cf. Matt 5:4)
 - Stand as a witness of God (18:9)
 - Be baptized as a sign of this covenant (18:10)
 - Serve the Lord and keep his commandments (18:10)
- The Lord's promises
 - Be redeemed of God (18:9)
 - Be in the first resurrection (18:9)
 - Inherit eternal life (18:9)
 - Have his spirit more abundantly

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22. Contrasting Affairs in the Lands of Nephi and Helam (Mosiah 18-24)

4

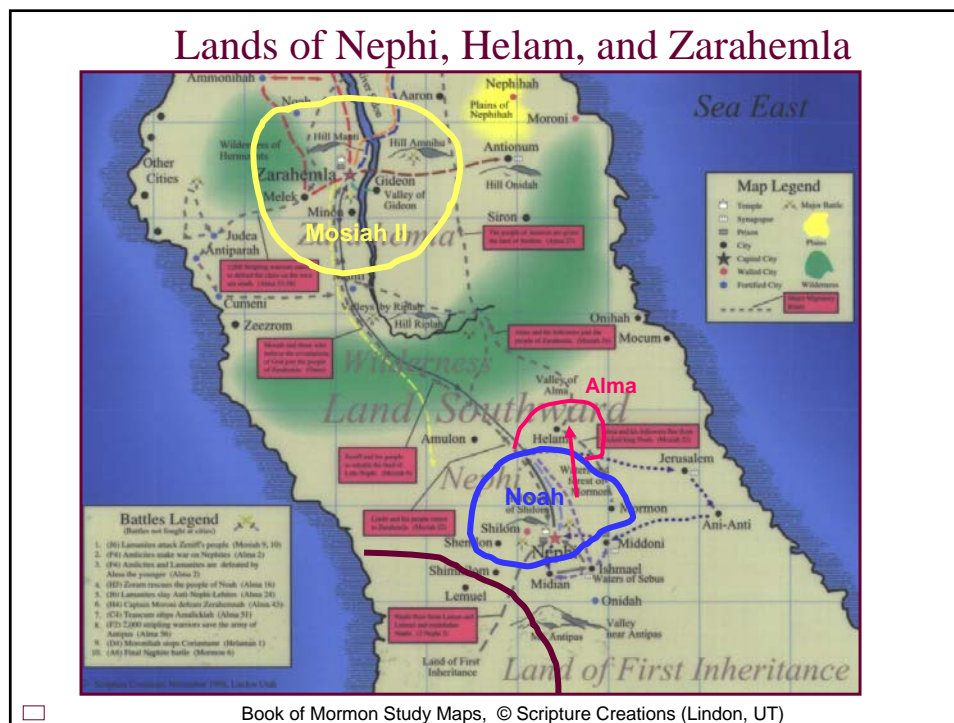
Alma Establishes a Church

- “And they were called the church of God, or the church of Christ, from that time forward. And it came to pass that whosoever was baptized by the power and authority of God was added to his church.” (18:17)
 - 204 initial converts baptized
 - Priests called and ordained
 - Watch over the church: one for every fifty / the idea of stewardship and accountability for members
 - Teach faith, repentance, baptism, love, and unity (19:20-21)
 - **No priestcrafts**
 - Support themselves (18:24)
 - Teach only what the prophets had taught (18:19)
- Alma and his people flee (18:31-35)

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22. Contrasting Affairs in the Lands of Nephi and Helam (Mosiah 18-24)

5



Final Days of Noah's Reign (19:1-23)

- Gideon tried to overthrow Noah (19:1-8)
 - Lamanite invasion saves Noah
 - Noah fails to lead Nephites against Lamanites, causes them to flee
- People of Noah return to their wives and children, are enslaved (19:9-15)
- Noah killed, his men return (19:16-23)

11/14/2005

22. Contrasting Affairs in the Lands of Nephi and Helam (Mosiah 18-24)

7

Reign of Limhi (19:25-21:27)

- Relations with the Lamanites
 - Unequal peace with the Lamanites (19:25-20)
 - War resumes over stolen Lamanite daughters (20:1-26)
 - Afflictions and defeats (21:1-12)
 - Humility and moderately renewed prosperity (21:13-17)
- Ammon's party discovered (21:18-27; see 7:1-8:27)
- Return of Limhi's People (21:28-22:15)
 - Limhi's people desire to follow Alma (21:28-36)
 - Ammon leads Nephite colonists back to Zarahemla (22:1-15)
 - *Delivered through a cunning plan*

11/14/2005

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8

Alma and the Church of God

- Alma and the Church flee King Noah's armies (23:1-5)
- Alma rejects the kingship (23:6-18)
- The People of Alma tried (23:19-24:15)
 - Prosperity in Helam (23:19-20)
 - The Lord tries the patience and faith of his people (23:21-24)
 - Lamanite army, seeking the people of Limhi, overrun Helam (23:25-35)
 - Lamanites enslave Alma's people and make Amulon their king (23:36-39)
 - Amulon and the priests of Noah teach the Lamanites (24:1-7)
 - Alma's people persecuted and comforted (24:8-15 , *n.b.* 13-15)
- The people of Alma ***delivered by the power of God*** (24:16-25)