

UNIT 3 REVIEW
Rel 121: Introduction to the Book of Mormon 1

(6/10/05 Units 19–28, Exam 3)

For **identifications**, review the terms below for passive recognition. Make sure that you cannot only identify the person, term, or event, but be able to explain why it is important to the Book of Mormon text.

When preparing for **scripture commentary**, be able to explain the original context of the passage (author and situation, not necessarily chapter and verse), and address basic historical questions (when and why was this text written, who is the speaker and the original audience, and how did the information in it—from the original source, to the author, through editors and translators—get to us?); literary questions (what kind of writing is the passage, how does it fit into its immediate and larger context, and what are its literary aims?); and theological questions (what principles or doctrines does this passage illustrate or teach, and, just as importantly, how does it engage and affect the reader?).

On **essays** (and, to a lesser extent, for the **short answers** on quizzes), try to respond to the question as completely as possible. Begin with a sentence or two for a thesis and then organize it into short paragraphs of three or four sentences for ease of organization and grading (short answers will consist of only four or five sentences or perhaps, in some cases just a list or chart).

Course Objectives

- Increase the student’s knowledge of the Book of Mormon: familiarize him or her with the basic storylines, characters, and concepts in this book of scripture
- Help the student read, discuss, and write about the Book of Mormon as both a source of scriptural knowledge and as a sacred text: become familiar with the process of closely reading and analyzing a scriptural text (the how, what, and why of a selection of text)
- Strengthen individual testimonies of sacred truths, particularly of Jesus Christ and the doctrines of the Restoration.

Names and Terms

TITLE PAGE PURPOSES

Show the great things the Lord did for their
(our) fathers
Know the Covenants of the Lord
Convince Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the
Christ, the Eternal God

AUTHORS AND SOURCES

Abdinadi’s final words, Alma’s record of

Benjamin’s final address
Mormon
Record of Alma¹ and his people
Record(s) of Alma²
Record of Mosiah’s reign
Record of Zeniff, personal
Record of Zeniff’s people, abridged
Twenty-four Jaredite plates

Reading Strategies

Ask questions, careful reading, prayerful pondering, consider scholarly contributions, pray and ponder again

Read in sections

- avoid proof texting
- pericopes
- structural analyses

Hermeneutics

- “them, there, then”
- “us, here, now”

Exegesis

- historical questions
- literary questions
- theological questions

GENRES

Narratives – “Telling a Story”

- introductions
- transition and summary reports
- editorial digressions and explanations
e.g., discussions about plates and records, “and thus we see” passages
- historical narratives
- vision or dream reports
- miracle stories

Discourses – “quotations,” connected speech

- parables and allegories
- some Prayers
- exhortations and fatherly admonition
- sermons (oral discourses)

Dramatic Episodes

- historical scenes (e.g., Jacob’s encounter with Sherem)

Poetry

PRINCIPLES

Accountability

Atonement

- healing power of
- saving power of
- strengthening and enabling power of

- “Twin Pillars of”

Being born of the spirit

- receiving Christ’s image in our countenances
- feeling “to sing the song of redeeming love” *again*

Death

- temporal/physical
- spiritual
 - o first (at fall/birth)
 - o second (possible after judgement)

Doctrine of Christ

- faith in Christ, repentance, baptism (the strait gate), gift of the Holy Ghost, and “pressing forward in Christ”

Foreordination

- foreordination and faithfulness

Gathering and Scattering of Israel

- spiritual
- physical/temporal

Grace

- see powers of the atonement above and cf. healing, saving, and therapeutic grace
- models of: debtor, parable of the bicycle, “come and get a free gift”

Gift of the Holy Ghost

- gifts of the Holy Ghost
- sanctification and baptism by fire

Gospel of Christ

- cf. Christology, “the person and work of Jesus”
- definition: see 3 Nephi 27:13–15
- fulness of in the Book of Mormon (see Plan of Salvation below)

Judgment

Person and work of the Messiah

- Person : the Son of God, Redeemer of Mankind
- How Christ is the Father and the Son
 - o as creator
 - o of those who abide in his

gospel/through covenant by taking his name

- by divine investiture of authority
- › Father “because he was conceived by the power of God”
- › Son “because of the flesh”

Work: overcoming sin and death

Prayer, power of

Priesthood

- as a holy order
- ordination to and ordinances of as types

Redemption, plan of

- see Atonement (esp. redemption from sin/remission of sins and resurrection);
- Being born of the spirit; Death;
- Judgement

Remission of sins, obtaining and retaining

Restoration, doctrine of (not the event)

- spirit to body
- “moral” restoration —to guilt or happiness

Resurrection

- “spiritual” bodies

Revelation

COVENANTS

Horizontal

Vertical

- with individuals
- with people and nations

Group covenants

- [Noah covenant]
- Abrahamic covenant
- Deuteronomic covenant
- [David covenants]
- Joseph covenants
- Lehi covenant

Individual covenants

- Baptismal
 - becoming a child of Christ through
- [Oath and Covenant of the Priesthood: D&C 84:33–40]

- Temple endowment covenants

- Sealing covenants

Oaths

Priesthood or God-initiated covenants

- ordinances often symbols of

IMPORTANT FIGURES AND CHARACTERS

Aaron³ (son of Mosiah²)

Abinadi

Abish

Alma¹

Alma²

Amlici

Ammon¹ (the scout)

Ammon² (son of Mosiah)

Amulek

Amulon

Anti-Nephi-Lehi

Benjamin

Gideon

Helam

Himni

Lamoni

Lamoni, wife of

Lamoni’s father,

Lamoni’s father, wife of

Limhi

Mosiah, sons of

Mosiah²

Nehor

Noah³

Omner

Zeezrom

Zeniff

TERMS AND EXPRESSIONS

abridgment

Amalekites

Amlicites

Ammon, people of

Amulonites

“anti”

Anti-Nephi-Lehies
 confession, including “confession of faith”
 eternal life
 “The Father and The Son: A Doctrinal
 Exposition by The First Presidency and
 The Twelve”
 flashback, literary
 Gideon
 “Great Inequality of Men”
 Great Spirit
 judges
 Lehi Covenants and Nephite Prosperity Cycle
 Nephite Reformation of Alma²
 Nephites
 People of Zarahemla (“Mulekites”)
 “popular” (e.g., in the selection and paying of
 religious and other leaders)
 priestcrafts
 prophet
 redemption
 resurrection
 retaining a mission of our sins
 revelator
 scattering
 seer
 spiritual body (as opposed to a spirit body)
 superscriptions (of books) and headnotes
 (over sections)
 universalist, universalism
 “voice of the people”

EVENTS

Benjamin’s Farewell Address (sermon)
 Conversion of Alma² and the Four Sons of
 Mosiah
 Deliverance of the peoples of Limhi and
 Alma
 Expedition to the Land of Nephi, first (failed)
 Expedition to the Land of Nephi, second
 Noah³, wicked reign and overthrow of
 Abdinadi

- first mission of
 - second mission of
 - trial and execution of
 Lamanite daughters, abduction of
 Lamanites, oppression of Limhi and Alma’s
 peoples by
 Alma¹
 - conversion of
 - baptizes at Waters of Mormon
 - flight of with the church
 - God leads his people to Zarahemla
 through
 “Gathering” or unification of the people of
 Zarahemla (Mulekites), Nephites, and
 returning colonists (Limhi and Alma’s
 people)
 Reform of Nephite government/establishment
 of the rule of judges
 Nehor, challenge and execution of
 Rebellion of Amlici
 Reign of the Judges
 Alma²
 - conversion of
 - become chief judge
 - missions of
 - resigns the judgeship
 Nephite Reformation
 - Zarahemla (5:1-6:6)
 - Gideon
 - Melek
 - Ammonihah
 - Sidom
 Sons of Mosiah, Lamanite mission of
 - Ammon² in Ishmael
 - meeting Lamoni’s father on the road to
 Middoni
 - imprisonment and subsequent preaching
 of Ammon’s brethren
 - Aaron in Nephi
 - widespread Lamanite conversions
 ◦ burying their weapons of war
 ◦ become the Anti-Nephi-Lehies

Lamanite Civil War	Jerusalem ² , Lamanite city and land of
- more Anti-Nephi-Lehies slain	Land of First Inheritance
- Ammonihah destroyed	Melek
- Amulonites hunted and killed	Middoni
Ammon glories in the Lord	Mormon, Waters of
Alma ² meets the Sons of Mosiah	Nephi, Lamanite city and land of
Anti-Nephi-Lehies join the Nephites and	Sebus, waters of
become the People of Ammon	Sidom
Lamanite-Nephite War	Zarahemla
Song of Alma ²	

PLACES

Ammonihah
 Gideon
 Helam, land of
 Ishmael, land of
 Jershon
 Jerusalem¹, Jewish city and land of

SYMBOLS

baptism
 being overcome by the spirit
 - as part of repentance
 - because of joy
 idolatry (what besides the obvious!)
 whoredoms

StructuresMosiah

[Superscription lacking]

End of King Benjamin's Reign (1:1-8:21)

Benjamin's Farewell Address (2:9-6:3)

Zeniff and the Colony in the Land of Nephi (9:1-22:16)

The Record of Zeniff (9:1-22:16)

Ministry of Abinadi (11:20-17:20)

Account of Alma the Elder and His People in the Land of Helam (23:1-24:25)

Mosiah²'s Reign in Zarahemla (25:1-29:47)

Alma

The Korihor and Zoramite episodes sit roughly in the middle of the Book of Alma, illustrating how individual and group rebellion and apostasy are responsible for the wars and destructions that follow.

Superscription

Record of Alma²

Beginning of the Reign of Judges (1:1-4:5)

Alma the Younger and the Nephite Reformation (4:6-16:21)

The Lamanite Mission of the Sons of Mosiah² (17:1-27:30)

Lamanite-Nephite War (28:1-14)

Further Missions of Alma and Amulek (Alma 29:1-35:14)

The Song of Alma (29:1-17)

[Korihor, an Anti-Christ (30:6–21)]**[Mission to the Zoramites (31:1–35:14)]**

[Alma's Testimony to His Sons (35:15–42:31)]

[The Zoramite War (43:3–44:24)]

[The Record of Helaman²][The End of the Prophetic Career of Alma² (45:1–19)]

[Helaman's Unsuccessful Reformation (45:20–24)]

[The Wars of Amalickiah and Ammoron (46:1–62:41)]

[Nephite Recovery and Changes (62:42–63:17)]

[Record of Shiblón]

Notable Passages

Review the list in the packet up for Mosiah 1–Alma 16

(Be able to identify the original context of the passage—author, situation, and how we got the text—as well as its meaning, and its importance for individual application today)

Larger Issues, Potential Essay Questions

- What were the two major purposes of King Benjamin's farewell address? What might have been the occasion for such a meeting. More importantly, what did the king teach them that changed their lives?
- After hearing King Benjamin preach about Jesus Christ, his people "fell to the earth" and repented. What can we learn about repentance by the way that they turned to the Lord and prayed? What signs follow that assure us that we have been forgiven?
- What did King Benjamin mean when he taught that "we are all beggars?" What must we do to retain a remission of our sins?
- What does it mean to become "the children of Christ?" In what way can Christ be our Father?
- Why does the Book of Mosiah contain several "flashbacks" in which the narrative breaks chronological order?
- Trace the basic sequence of events in Zarahemla, Nephi, and Helam from the expedition of Helam to the time that Limhi and Alma the elder's peoples were brought back to Zarahemla.
- During the trial of Abinadi, how did he turn the questioning back against the priests of King Noah who were prosecuting him? Of what did he condemn these wicked priests?
- In his final words, Abinadi taught that Christ "is both the Father and the Son." How are we to understand this?
- Review the covenants of baptism. What are the "practical implications" of taking upon ourselves the name of Christ, and what are the Lord's promises to us?
- Why was Alma¹ inspired to organize the newly baptized people of God into a church? Why is it necessary to have a church and not just the priesthood?
- How were the people of Alma¹ in Helam able to endure their oppression? What can we learn from their example?

- Compare and contrast the deliverance of the people of Limhi and the people of Alma and how each was led back to Zarahemla. What made the difference in their experiences?
- What caused persecution of and apostasy within the church that Alma the elder established in Zarahemla?
- What principles of church discipline do we learn from the experiences of Alma¹ in Mosiah 26?
- Why did Alma² and the apostle Paul receive divine intervention to encourage them to repent when the children of so many righteous parents today do not?
- What arguments did King Mosiah² make for abolishing the kingship with the end of his reign? What political truths did he teach about “the voice of the people?”
- What were the philosophical and religious challenges that confronted Alma the younger in the first years of the reign of the judges?
- Describe the religious/philosophical program of the antichrist Nehor. What are some similar philosophies today?
- On what charges was Nehor executed? What does this teach us about what is often termed “separation of church and state?”
- “Now when Amlici was made king over them he commanded them that they should take up arms against their brethren; and this he did that he might subject them to him.” What are some of the ways that the “wicked” try to subject others to their values and beliefs today?
- Review the missions of Alma² (5:1-16:21). How successful was the Nephite Reformation?
 - ▶ Zarahemla (5:1-6:6)
 - ▶ Gideon (6:7-7:27)
 - ▶ Melek (8:1-5)
 - ▶ Ammonihah (8:1-16:21)
 - ▶ Sidom (15:1-19)
- Compare and contrast Alma’s missions to Zarahemla and Gideon. What were the respective states of the churches in these cities, and what was Alma able to concentrate on in Gideon that he could not in Zarahemla?
- Be familiar with the major themes of the sermons of Alma and Amulek at Ammonihah
 - ▶ accountability (Alma, ch. 9)
 - ▶ conversion and the prayers of the righteous (Amulek, ch. 10)
 - ▶ resurrection (Amulek, ch. 11)
 - ▶ revelation, judgment, and the plan of redemption (Alma, ch. 12)
 - ▶ priesthood, foreordination, and the role of individual faithfulness (Alma, ch. 13)
- Discuss the connection between bodily resurrection and the judgment as taught in the Book of Mormon.
- Describe the doctrine of the resurrection as taught by Amulek. What “restoration” does it involve in addition to the restoration of the body?
- Compare and contrast the initial missionary experiences of Ammon and Aaron. What accounts for the differences?
- Compare and contrast the conversions of Lamoni and his father.
- What do special insights do passages such as Mosiah 3:5–8 and Alma 7:10 give us into the

mission and Atonement of Jesus Christ?

- ❑ Discuss and compare Ammon’s “glorying in the Lord” and Alma’s song in Alma 29.
- ❑ Review the Title Page of the Book of Mormon and be prepared to write an essay discussing how the books of Mosiah and Alma fulfill the purposes identified on the title page.
- ❑ In what sense does the Book of Mormon contain “the fulness” of the gospel? What makes its presentation of the Plan of Salvation different and more complete than, say, the writings of Paul in the New Testament?

Graphic Illustrating Aspects of the Atonement/the Graces of Christ

