

Why the Book of Mormon is the New Covenant

Part 4: The Melchizedek Priesthood

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**“For every high priest taken from among men
is ordained for men in things pertaining to God...”**

Hebrews 5:1-6 – *For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins; Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself to offer for sins. And no man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. So also Christ glorified not himself to be made a high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Hebrews 7:12-17 – *For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident; for that after the similitude of Melchizedek there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. For he testifieth, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*

Alma 10:6-10 – *And now my brethren, I would that ye should humble yourselves before God and bring forth fruit meet for repentance, that ye may also enter into that rest; Yea, humble yourselves even as the people in the days of Melchizedek, who was also a high priest after this same order which I have spoken, who also took upon him the high priesthood forever; And it was this same Melchizedek to whom Abraham paid tithes, Yea, even our father Abraham paid tithes of one tenth part of all he possessed. Now these ordinances were given after this manner, that thereby the people might look forward on the Son of God, it being a type of His order, or it being His order; And this that they might look forward to Him for a remission of their sins, that they might enter into the rest of the Lord.*

Helaman 3:49-52 – *And now behold, Moses did not only testify of these things, but also all the holy prophets, from his day even to the days of Abraham – Yea, and behold, Abraham saw of His coming and was filled with gladness and did rejoice! Yea, and behold, I say unto you that Abraham not only knew of these things, but there were many before the days of Abraham which were called by the order of God, yea, even after the order of His Son; And this that it should be shown unto the people a great many thousand years before His coming that even redemption should come unto them.*

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¹ For clarification, the spelling *Melchizedek* appears in [Genesis 14:18](#) and [Psalm 110:4](#) of the King James Version (KJV), or Authorized Version, of the Bible. In the letter to the Hebrews of the KJV, the name is spelled as *Melchisedec*, such as in [Hebrews 5:6,10](#) & [Hebrews 7:1-21](#). In the Inspired Version (IV), *an Inspired Revision* of the Holy Scriptures, all occurrences to this name, both in the Old and New Testaments, are *Melchizedek*. In the 1908 Edition of the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine & Covenants, it is spelled *Melchisedec*. The Restored Covenant Edition (RCE) of the Book of Mormon uses *Melchizedek*. Because a variety of sources are quoted here, both *Melchisedec* and *Melchizedek* are found throughout. Nevertheless, either name refers to the same person and/or priesthood. Outside of quotes in this study letter, the name *Melchizedek* will be used the same as its first occurrence in the Bible and as found throughout the IV of the Holy Scriptures.

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Introduction

The authors of the Book of Mormon wrote that they kept the law of Moses until Jesus Christ visited them following His resurrection and ascension into heaven.² Have you ever wondered how they could have kept the law for over 600 years³ without priests of the Levitical priesthood officiating over their observance of its many ordinances?⁴

According to their record, the primary authors and ministers identified in the book were of the tribe of Joseph through his son Manasseh.⁵ Since Moses spoke nothing about priesthood coming through the line of Joseph in terms of the law, how was it possible then for this initially small group of people, whose history is recorded in the Book of Mormon, to have someone serve in any capacity reserved for the Levitical priesthood?

Equally intriguing are the written accounts in the Book of Mormon of multiple high priests actively serving at the same time.⁶ Typically, only one high priest of the Levitical priesthood served in Israel in a given period of time.⁷ What then can explain the various references in the Book of Mormon to multiple high priests ministering concurrently?

Nephi, the opening author of the book, provided the answer to these and all such questions when stating his confidence that God always prepares a way for the children of men to accomplish whatever He commands them to do.⁸ To keep the law of Moses according to God's commandments, Nephi's family would need priesthood serving among them who could lawfully preside in its many observances. They would also need an authoritative record of the law of Moses. How then did God equip them with the necessary priesthood and with a written record of the law by which to keep the law and not stray from it for so long a period of time?

Nephi tells us they obtained both the priesthood and law through faith in Jesus Christ.⁹ Beginning with Lehi, Nephi's father,¹⁰ the Lord raised up high priests among them who were high priests of *the holy order of the Son of God*, i.e. the Melchizedek priesthood.¹¹ Like Paul

² II Nephi 4:14, II Nephi 11:44-51, Jacob 3:4-6, Jarom 1:10-13, Alma 16:1-5, Helaman 5:90-94, III Nephi 1:27-31, III Nephi 4:46-50, III Nephi 7:1-12 with III Nephi 4:74,75

³ III Nephi 1:1-26, III Nephi 1:44-46, III Nephi 4:3-75, etc.

⁴ The Levites were the priests of the law. See Numbers 3:1-16 with Hebrews 7:11-14

⁵ I Nephi 1:164,165 & Alma 8:3 with III Nephi 1:Intro, III Nephi 2:102, Mormon 1:6 & Moroni 4:17

⁶ e.g. Alma 21:34, Alma 21:73 & Helaman 2:23

⁷ cf. Leviticus 21:10-24 with Numbers 35:25-28, II Kings 12:8-10, II Kings 22:3-11, II Kings 23:1-8, Nehemiah 3:1,20 & Matthew 26:1-4,51-68, Mark 2:22-27, John 11:49-54, John 18:10-26, Acts 23:1-5, etc.

⁸ I Nephi 1:65 & I Nephi 5:59,60 with I Nephi 1:153-156, etc.

⁹ Note especially I Nephi 1:24 & I Nephi 1:53 with Alma 9:63-73

¹⁰ See I Nephi 1:3-27 with Ether 5:11

¹¹ II Nephi 5:2-8, Alma 3:73-96, Alma 4:9-10, Alma 5:38-44, Alma 10:1-17; cf. Alma 20:1-2 & 21:185-186

on the road to Damascus,¹² Lehi received a vision from the Lord in which He saw the Messiah and, like Paul, he was led to immediately testify to others of this Messiah and the rest of what he had seen and heard.¹³ Thus, we see that the Lord is able to accomplish His work in the same manner throughout every generation of mankind, which He carries out *according to the foreknowledge of God on account of their exceeding faith and good works*.¹⁴

Next a record containing the law was obtained through faithful obedience to a command the Lord gave Lehi for his sons.¹⁵ Acting in faith upon this command, Nephi and his brothers, were able to retrieve certain records, known among them as the *plates of brass*, from Jerusalem and bring them to their father in the wilderness. Both the law and the records of the prophets were written upon this particular set of metal plates, including *many* of the prophecies of Jeremiah.¹⁶ They also contained the genealogy of Lehi's forefathers, by which Lehi learned he was a descendant of Joseph, the son of Jacob, or Israel.

Keeping the law of Moses, however, was not God's ultimate objective for this small remnant of the house of Israel when leading them away from Jerusalem and to a new land. His main goal was to raise up a righteous branch of the house of Israel unto Himself through the line of Joseph.¹⁷ This then was God's main reason for raising up high priests of *the order of Melchizedek* to minister among them. In this way, God provided a *more excellent ministry* than that which could have been provided for them through the Levitical priesthood.¹⁸

Through this *better* or *greater*¹⁹ priesthood, God administered a *better covenant* by which the people of the Book of Mormon could obey the gospel of Jesus Christ through faith, both before and after the time the law of Moses was fulfilled by Him.²⁰ As stated in the letter to the Hebrews in the Bible, this *change in priesthood* required a *change also of the law*.²¹

In the letter to the Hebrews, we also read that *the law was administered without an oath and made nothing perfect*.²² Unlike priests called to the order of the Levitical priesthood, our Lord's call to be a high priest after *the order of Melchizedek*²³ was established by an oath

¹² Acts 9:1-20, Acts 26:9-23

¹³ I Nephi 1:3-27

¹⁴ Alma 9:63-73 & D&C 83:2g; cf. Acts 9:1-20, Hebrews 7:3,17,21, D&C 26:3a, D&C 83:6c, etc.

¹⁵ I Nephi 1:59-174

¹⁶ I Nephi 1:61, I Nephi 1:163

¹⁷ II Nephi 2:6,7 & Jacob 2:34,35 with Ether 6:7,8

¹⁸ cf. Hebrews 8:6 with Ether 5:12. Note: Under *the new covenant* the sons of Levi will offer an acceptable offering unto the Lord, even as Moses had before them (see Malachi 3:1-3 with Hebrews 11:23-29).

¹⁹ cf. Hebrews 7:7 with D&C 83:2g-3c & D&C 104:7-8b

²⁰ See Ether 5:11-13 with I Nephi 3:23-36 & II Nephi 7:1-12

²¹ Hebrews 7:12

²² See Hebrews 7:19 & Hebrews 10:1 with Hebrews 7:11, Romans 3:19,20, Galatians 2:16, etc.

²³ In being called an *order* of priesthood, we understand that our Lord was not the only member of this order.

declared by the Father when He spoke these words, “*Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*”²⁴ Because of this oath, which is an eternal declaration of God, Jesus Christ is *the surety (guarantee or assurance) of a better testament (covenant).*²⁵ This oath expressed perpetually our heavenly Father’s avowed will. Based on this oath, Jesus Christ is able to *perfect forever* all those who are *sanctified* by Him.²⁶ Stated another way, “*...he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*”²⁷

From the foregoing references from the letter to the Hebrews, we understand that without this *better* priesthood and more *excellent* ministry it brought among them, none of the Book of Mormon people would have become righteous before God. Why? The law simply could not make any of them *perfect*. Thus, if they had remained under the law of Moses alone, i.e. without the higher priesthood to point them to Christ, they would have inevitably been cut off from His presence by not fulfilling the perfect law of liberty in Christ Jesus.²⁸

To God’s honor and glory, however, this was not the case. Nephi, his brother Jacob, and many others who followed after them testified that it was by His grace that God had saved them in His kingdom through faith in Jesus Christ.²⁹ Thus by faith, God had provided them with the *better* way.

In this way, the Lord not only vindicated Nephi’s faith – that God always prepares a way for His commands to be accomplished by the children of men – but He also demonstrated His faithfulness as *a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God.*³⁰ To borrow words penned by Paul, the Lord gave His people high priests after the order of Melchizedek “*for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*”³¹

As a result of the faithful and honest ministry of these high priests, many souls among them were *redeemed* and *went out of this world rejoicing.*³² These words from Hebrews sum up the matter quite well: “*...the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us; for after that he had said before, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my*

²⁴ Hebrews 7:1-28 with Psalm 110:4; see also Psalm 2:1-12 with Mark 9:4,5

²⁵ Hebrews 7:20 IV (Hebrews 7:22 BSB)

²⁶ Hebrews 10:1-14 with Hebrews 5:9,10, Hebrews 7:24-27 & Hebrews 13:20,21

²⁷ Hebrews 7:24

²⁸ cf. Proverbs 2:21,22 with II Nephi 1:33-43, II Nephi 2:18-33, II Nephi 3:7-13, etc.; Romans 8:1-4 & James 1:21-25

²⁹ II Nephi 11:40-51, II Nephi 7:35-44, Mosiah 9:47-53 ... Moroni 10:27-30

³⁰ See Hebrews 2:17 with I Corinthians 10:13,14

³¹ Ephesians 4:11,12

³² II Nephi 15:7,8, Alma 12:18,19, Alma 17:35-40, Alma 21:73,74, etc.

laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”³³

The More Plain and Precious Parts

Just as *the plates of brass* were invaluable to this small remnant³⁴ for keeping the law, so were these plates invaluable to them for exercising their faith in Jesus Christ. With the records of the prophets in hand, including those of Isaiah, Jeremiah and others, they came to learn about *the new covenant* which the Lord testified He would make with the house of Israel in the latter days.³⁵ By way of this covenant, the Lord promised to recover His peoples unto Himself in the lands of their inheritance.³⁶

This *new covenant* came alive for the peoples of the Book of Mormon in a number of distinct and practical ways. For example, according to the *new covenant* spoken of by the prophets, the Lord promised to literally gather His ancient covenant people Israel to the lands of their inheritance.³⁷ Because they are of the lineage of Joseph, who was sold into bondage in Egypt, God gathered them to the land given to Joseph.³⁸

Even more remarkable, because *the new covenant* is mediated by Jesus Christ,³⁹ and because it is administered by the Melchizedek priesthood,⁴⁰ *the power of godliness* was manifested among them, which they attested to on many occasions in their records.⁴¹ As a result, many of them were born of God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit ministered to them by the Lord,⁴² and by this means they became steadfast and immovable forever by being converted unto Christ.⁴³ Thus we see that this small remnant of the house of Joseph became a forerunner to the rest of the house of Israel in terms of being brought into *the new covenant*.

In coming to the land promised him, Lehi and his family had taken a journey of faith that had paralleled certain aspects of the life of Joseph, their forefather.⁴⁴ Like Joseph, Lehi had

³³ Hebrews 10:15-17 with Hebrews 8:7-13; ref. Jeremiah 31:31-34

³⁴ Those made known to us through the Book of Mormon.

³⁵ Isaiah 9:6,7, Isaiah 11:1-16 with Isaiah 43:15-19, Isaiah 44:1-8, Isaiah 51:5-9, Isaiah 59:1-21; Jeremiah 16:13-18, Jeremiah 23:1-8, Jeremiah 24:6,7, Jeremiah 29:11-14

³⁶ cf. Jeremiah 31:10,11 with Jeremiah 31:31-34, Jeremiah 32:37-41, Jeremiah 33:14-18 (also Malachi 3:1-6 with Isaiah 33:10-24, Isaiah 66:20-23, etc.); see I Nephi 7:22-25, II Nephi 5:29, II Nephi 6:1-3, II Nephi 7:12-26, etc.

³⁷ cf. Isaiah 11:11-16, Jeremiah 29:11-14, Ezekiel 37:21-28 with Genesis 15:1-15 & Genesis 49:1-33

³⁸ I Nephi 1:26-32 & I Nephi 2:7-11 with Ether 6:4-13 & Genesis 49:22-26

³⁹ cf. Hebrews 9:14,15 with Hebrews 8:7-13 & Jeremiah 31:31-34

⁴⁰ cf. II Corinthians 3:1-6 with Hebrews 7:14-27, John 15:16, Acts 26:13-20, etc.

⁴¹ cf. D&C 83:3b-3c with Mosiah 3:1-21, III Nephi 4:48-50 (see Helaman 2:118), etc.

⁴² e.g. Mosiah 3:8,9, Mosiah 11:186-199 with Alma 5:24, III Nephi 4:49,50, III Nephi 5:46, etc.

⁴³ Alma 14:11, Helaman 5:91-108, III Nephi 3:15-16, etc.

⁴⁴ Ref. II Nephi 2:5 & II Nephi 3:1

settled his family in a land distant from his extended family, Israel. And like Joseph, Lehi and his family were called upon to store up *food* for the preservation of the people of the land into which they had been brought.⁴⁵ In both cases, the food they stored up has provided a means for God to preserve the whole house of Israel.

- In Joseph's case, he was appointed by Pharaoh to store up *corn* in Egypt during seven years of plenty to prepare for the seven years of famine which God revealed would follow. This famine came not only upon Egypt, but upon *all the face of the earth*.⁴⁶ When Joseph's father, Jacob, learned that there was yet corn in Egypt during the famine, he sent his other sons to Egypt to buy enough food so they would not starve because of the famine. At first, they did not know that it was their brother who would supply them with the needed provisions. Through their need for provisions, however, God arranged for the house of Israel to be reunited as one nation. Also note here how, in Joseph's case, the food that was stored up was physical in nature. By the manner in which it was presented to them, it foreshadowed the manna of both the old and new covenants. This is where Lehi and his posterity (i.e. the posterity of Joseph, Israel's son) begin to come into God's plan to restore the house of Israel unto Himself as one nation.
- In the case of Lehi and his posterity, they were commanded to store up spiritual food by recording the words and the works of Jesus Christ which He had *manifested* in their midst. To be faithful to this command, Nephi began the spiritual history of his people by writing *the things of God* and by commanding his posterity to do the same.⁴⁷

*"I, Nephi, received a commandment that the ministry and the prophecies – the more plain and precious parts of them – should be written upon these plates; and that the things which were written should be kept for the instruction of my people which should possess the land, and also for other wise purposes, which purposes are known unto the Lord ... and that these plates should be handed down from one generation to another, or from one prophet to another, until further commandments of the Lord... And this I do that the more sacred things may be kept for the knowledge of my people. Nevertheless, I do not write anything upon plates save it be that I think it be sacred."*⁴⁸

Their records not only fed the oncoming generations among them up to the time of Christ and beyond for four more generations, they have been preserved and brought forth in these latter days to feed the whole house of Israel and all the inhabitants of all lands with

⁴⁵ Consider the great things God did for Zarahemla and his people by bringing them together with the Nephites. Their language had been corrupted, so Mosiah taught them to speak and write in his language.

⁴⁶ [Genesis 41:56,57](#)

⁴⁷ [1 Nephi 2:3-5](#)

⁴⁸ [1 Nephi 5:223-229](#)

God's word. Their record of Jesus Christ is the manna of the new covenant, such that through their record, the Word of God is manifesting Himself unto the house of Israel today by way of the Holy Ghost.⁴⁹ Thus, with the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, a cry has arisen from the dust and is now being heard over all the earth: "*Feast upon the words of Christ, for the words of Christ will show you all things that you should do;*"⁵⁰ "*For the right way is to believe in Christ and deny him not; for by denying him, ye also deny the prophets and the law.*"⁵¹

The authors of their spiritual history, like Nephi, Jacob, Enos, and those who followed (e.g. Mormon and Moroni), diligently wrote and earnestly prayed in faith that these sacred records would be preserved and brought forth to future generations of their people.⁵² They desired that a remnant among them might come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and His doctrines so they might know how to come unto Him and be saved in His everlasting kingdom.⁵³ In response to their diligence and prayers of faith, God moved them to build up a storehouse of spiritual food (i.e. their records of Christ) which He will use to bring the whole house of Israel to the Lord.

Know Ye that Ye are of the House of Israel

Why exactly had this great blessing of the Lord come to the house of Israel through Joseph's line, more particularly, through the line of Manasseh? When naming his firstborn son Manasseh, Joseph said, "*God ... hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house.*"⁵⁴ Joseph may have said *God hath made me forget ... all my father's house* because of the many years he felt excluded from his family while in bondage in Egypt, and perhaps even more so when Pharaoh gave him an Egyptian wife.⁵⁵ Taking a wife from another people other than his own would have further distanced him from his father's family.

While Joseph may have felt isolated and cut off from his family, God however had not forgotten either Joseph or his father's house.⁵⁶ Neither did God want Joseph to forget his family. As if to prove this, God eventually brought Joseph's family to him so he might care for them. In effect, God was saying to him, "*Know ye that ye are of the house of Israel.*"⁵⁷

⁴⁹ I Nephi 3:184-205 with III Nephi 7:22,27, etc.

⁵⁰ II Nephi 2:36-43, II Nephi 15:16 with II Nephi 14:1-8

⁵¹ II Nephi 11:54

⁵² Jacob 3:3-5, Enos 1:18-29, Moroni 1:4, Moroni 10:1-7 with I Nephi 3:184-186, II Nephi 2:19-23, II Nephi 11:83-88, II Nephi 12:80-90, etc.

⁵³ e.g. I Nephi 4:16-25, etc.

⁵⁴ Genesis 41:51

⁵⁵ See Genesis 41:45,46 with <http://biblehub.com/topical/a/asenath.htm>

⁵⁶ e.g. I Nephi 4:17, II Nephi 12:74, III Nephi 9:92, Ether 1:112, etc.

⁵⁷ Mormon 3:24

This pattern of Joseph providing for all of Israel has again appeared through the posterity of his son, Manasseh. Ironic as it may seem, and notwithstanding the meaning of Manasseh's name, God is causing all the house of Israel (including all of Joseph's lineage) to remember Joseph and his posterity through Manasseh's line. At first, they may not know that the authors of the Book of Mormon are their brothers, but they will come to know them as such when they begin to feast upon the needed provisions found in our Lord's words contained in their records.

To further add to God's convincing testimony to Joseph that the family born to him in Egypt had not been cut off from the rest of his family, God had Jacob adopt Joseph's two sons (who were born in Egypt) – as if to say, though you thought God had removed your seed from your father's family, God has grafted them into Jacob so they are now his own sons. In this way, Ephraim and Manasseh became equal heirs with Jacob's other sons. In this way Joseph would see that God had not caused him to forget his father's house as he had supposed. By restoring him fully to his own family in this way, God showed that He had planned the necessary provisions to heal the wounds Joseph had suffered as an exile in Egypt.

Through this ancient record contained in the Book of Mormon, all Israel can truly see the great things God has done for their fathers.⁵⁸ Through this sacred record of a remnant of Joseph's lineage in Manasseh, all the world will come to know the faithfulness of God in remembering His covenants with His ancient covenant peoples, the house of Israel. All eyes will see and every ear will hear of the great things the Lord has done and is doing among them and for them in restoring them unto Himself as one nation under the new covenant He has made with Judah and with Ephraim.⁵⁹ All the peoples of the earth will see that they are indeed His people and that He is able to save and bring them home to the lands promised to their fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Joseph.⁶⁰

Even the New Covenant

By the coming forth of the Book of Mormon, God has signaled that He has already begun to remember His covenants with the house of Israel.⁶¹ As prophesied, He who scattered Israel is now gathering Israel.⁶² Through the storehouse of His words which have been recorded in the Book of Mormon, the Lord has prepared this book as the new covenant to feed His flock with His words, which are spirit and life.⁶³ As the Good Shepherd, He is now calling to

⁵⁸ cf. Alma 3:8-31

⁵⁹ Romans 11:1-36 with Isaiah 11:1-16, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Ezekiel 37:21-23, etc.

⁶⁰ cf. D&C 26:2f with Genesis 50:36,37

⁶¹ III Nephi 9:86-95

⁶² Jeremiah 31:10,11

⁶³ See John 6:63

His sheep, as it were, from the dust of the earth (because these records were hidden up unto the Lord in the earth for many centuries).

This is why, when bringing the Book of Mormon forth in these latter days, the Lord declared that this precious record is *the new covenant*.⁶⁴ This is why the Book of Mormon is *the new and everlasting covenant* spoken of by the prophets, e.g. by Jeremiah and Ezekiel. The Lord has made this book one in His hand with the stick of Judah to reunite the house of Israel under one covenant.⁶⁵

It must be recognized that this statement, that the Book of Mormon is the new covenant, is rivaled only by Jesus Christ saying He is the Only Begotten Son of God. To say that this book is *the new covenant*, is to say that it is the revelation or manifestation of God's living and abiding Word, who is Jesus Christ. To confirm that the Book of Mormon is indeed *the new covenant* it must be shown that it properly and clearly represents and presents the priesthood of the new covenant and its mediator, Jesus Christ, i.e. *the order of Melchizedek*, not that of *the order of Aaron*, who was a Levite.⁶⁶

As the writer of the Hebrew letter affirmed, Jesus was born of the tribe of Judah, *of which*, the writer reminds us, *Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood*.⁶⁷ Moses did, however, prophesy that a *prophet* like unto himself⁶⁸ would be raised up among God's people, and anyone who will not *hearken unto* the words of this prophet of whom Moses spoke would be *cut off* from among God's people.⁶⁹ As we read in the New Testament of the Bible, this prophet is Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of the Father.⁷⁰ A test of the declaration that the Book of Mormon is the *new covenant* would be, then, does it clearly and plainly testify of these same truths as found in the Bible?

A comparison of the Holy Scriptures preserved in the Bible and the records given in the Book of Mormon confirm that the authors of the Book of Mormon testified both of Jesus Christ and His priesthood. They also ministered according to the power and authority of this same priesthood. Unlike the inhabitants of Jerusalem from which they came, the authors of the Book of Mormon believed the prophets of God, and by their prophecies they exercised faith in the atoning grace of the Redeemer of Israel, the promised Messiah.

⁶⁴ D&C 83:8b

⁶⁵ Ezekiel 37:1-28 with Isaiah 11:1-16

⁶⁶ Hebrews 7:11-17

⁶⁷ Hebrews 7:14

⁶⁸ For Moses to say Jesus Christ would be like him, Moses would also be of *the order of Melchizedek* because our Lord is of the same order (cf. Deuteronomy 18:15,18,19 with II Corinthians 3:12-18 & Hebrews 5:1-14).

⁶⁹ Deuteronomy 18:15,18-19 with Acts 3:23; see also I Nephi 7:43-45 & III Nephi 9:60,61 with D&C 1:3a-3c & D&C 108:11c-11e

⁷⁰ Acts 3:22-26; compare with III Nephi 9:60-61 & III Nephi 9:81-106

Their own prophecies and writings also testify of the Messiah, whom they were shown to be Jesus Christ. In the following comparison of these two books, the Bible and Book of Mormon, we also learn why and how the authors of the Book of Mormon kept the law of Moses. It was by faith and through the ordinances and ministrations of the Melchizedek priesthood. Thus, in and through their faith and witness of Jesus Christ and His everlasting priesthood, the authors of the Book of Mormon demonstrate that their record of His ministry among them is indeed *the new covenant*.

Because of Their Faith

II Nephi 1:23 – *But behold, I, Nephi, will show unto you that the tender mercies of the Lord are over all them whom He hath chosen, because of their faith, to make them mighty, even unto the power of deliverance.*

From the opening to the closing verses of the Book of Mormon, we find an inspiring and enriching witness of Jesus Christ and His ministry and the service of those He called and ordained to minister unto His people. In the opening verses of the book, Nephi tells of how his father Lehi heard many prophets warn of the impending judgments awaiting the inhabitants of Jerusalem.⁷¹ While praying on their behalf concerning the foretold judgments, Lehi was shown many marvelous things. Among these was a vision in which Lehi saw the heavens open and, in the words of his son Nephi, Lehi thought he saw God on His throne surrounded by numerous angels in an *attitude* of singing and praising Him.

Lehi then saw *One* having a *luster* which was *above that of the sun at noonday* descending out of heaven along with *twelve others following Him* whose *brightness exceeded that of the stars in the firmament*. This *One* of whom Lehi testified then gave Lehi a book and *bade* (commanded, directed)⁷² him to read it. Through this vision, in which Lehi saw the Lord and read the book he had been given, Lehi became an eyewitness of the promised Messiah, Jesus Christ. He testified to his family and to the people at Jerusalem of how this book plainly *manifested the coming of a Messiah and the redemption of the world*.

- Like Paul, the Apostle of Jesus Christ, Lehi was commissioned through a heavenly vision to bear witness of the Lord.⁷³ Neither Lehi nor Paul were disobedient to the respective heavenly visions they had been given of their Lord. After the same pattern of the bestowal of power and authority, that which comes of the Lord Himself, both

⁷¹ I Nephi 1:3-20

⁷² cf. Exodus 16:24, Esther 4:15, Matthew 16:12, Luke 14:9, Acts 11:12, Acts 18:21, Acts 22:24

⁷³ See Acts 26:13-23 with II Timothy 1:1,11

Lehi and Paul became *especial* witnesses of Jesus Christ.

- Like Paul, Lehi *received power* and *authority* from the Holy Ghost by faith in the Son of God to testify of the Messiah and His work of redemption.⁷⁴ Lehi received this power because the Lord's Spirit is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and He bestows gifts and blessings upon the body of Christ according to His will.⁷⁵
- Unlike Paul, Lehi lived before the law of Moses was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Therefore, Lehi and his family kept the law of Moses because, in the words of his son Nephi, it pointed them to Christ and His atonement for the sins of the world.⁷⁶

Upon sharing the vision and testimony of Jesus Christ which Lehi received, the inhabitants of Jerusalem sought to take away his life. The Lord then commanded him to flee Jerusalem with his family into the wilderness.⁷⁷ While his safety was a concern, God's ultimate intent in leading Lehi and his family away from Jerusalem was to raise up *a righteous branch* of the house of Israel unto Himself in another part of the world.⁷⁸

Their journey began with the faith of Lehi, who believed the words of the prophets and those spoken by the Lord directly to him. Because of his faith in God's words, Lehi unswervingly kept the commandments of the Lord and led his family by faith to the land promised them for an inheritance, that of Joseph's land.⁷⁹ Remember, such faith is counted for righteousness.⁸⁰

Lehi's faith and his witness of the Messiah bore fruit in the lives of several of his sons. Nephi and Jacob, for example, also saw the Lord and faithfully kept His commandments and taught them to their people so they too might come unto their Savior and receive and retain a remission of their sins.⁸¹

This was the very end to which the Lord had called them to labor among their people. It was a work to which He had set them apart in order that He might bring forth righteousness and holiness by His Spirit in their lives, their families, their communities, and their nation as a whole.⁸²

⁷⁴ cf. I Nephi 3:23-36 with II Nephi 12:145; see also I Thessalonians 1:5 with Romans 1:16,17

⁷⁵ II Nephi 1:61-67 & II Nephi 12:56-62 with I Corinthians 1:17, I Corinthians 12:3-11 & I Timothy 2:7; e.g. I Nephi 3:26-32 with Alma 14:37,38

⁷⁶ II Nephi 11:43-51 with I Nephi 1:116-119 & I Nephi 1:172-174

⁷⁷ I Nephi 1:18-28

⁷⁸ II Nephi 2:7, II Nephi 104-105, Jacob 2:34, etc.

⁷⁹ I Nephi 1:26-32 & I Nephi 2:7-11 with Ether 6:4-13 & Genesis 49:22-26

⁸⁰ cf. Romans 4:5 with I Nephi 1:3; see also I Nephi 1:162,163 with II Kings 25:1-21, Jeremiah 1:3, etc.

⁸¹ I Nephi 1:65, I Nephi 3:44-87, II Nephi 1:61-67, II Nephi 11:43-51, etc.

⁸² cf. Matthew 6:38,39 with Jacob 3:125; see also II Nephi 4:42, Jacob 1:18 with II Nephi 5:2

To carry out this work of righteousness, they would need a written record of the Lord's commandments and His covenants with His people. Therefore, the Lord directed Lehi and his sons to acquire the record of the law and the prophets kept by a man named Laban.⁸³ They obtained these records through the faith of Nephi, who trusted the Lord to make a way to accomplish all His commands.⁸⁴

When Lehi received the record, called *the plates of brass*, he searched the records from the beginning and found they contained the five books of Moses, which included an account of the creation of the world.⁸⁵ They also included the prophecies of the holy prophets from the beginning down to those spoken by the prophet Jeremiah.

Because the record they obtained contained the five books of Moses, Lehi and his family would now have instructions to keep the commandments of the Lord according to the law of Moses. However, there was an apparent problem. The plates of brass also contained a genealogy of Lehi's fathers, which showed they were of the lineage of Joseph through the line of Manasseh.⁸⁶ Thus, they could not lawfully administer the ordinances of the law of Moses by way of lineage because they were not of the tribe of Levi. Nevertheless, as Nephi trusted, the Lord provided a way for them to keep His commandments according to the law; that way was through another priesthood, that of *the order of Melchizedek*, a record of which would have also been included in the five books of Moses contained in the brass plates.⁸⁷

Unlike the Levitical priesthood, the order of Melchizedek is not limited to a given lineage of the house of Israel, or of the lineage of any other peoples of the earth for that matter. Just as Jesus was not of the tribe of Levi and yet held this priesthood,⁸⁸ neither were the authors of the Book of Mormon of the tribe of Levi. Like Jesus, they were of another tribe of which Moses said nothing concerning priesthood. Yet, by faith the authors of the Book of Mormon obtained the Melchizedek priesthood by which they could keep the law of Moses by faith in Jesus Christ, who both kept and fulfilled it.⁸⁹

In latter day revelation, the Aaronic priesthood is spoken of as the *lesser priesthood* and the Melchizedek priesthood the *greater priesthood*.⁹⁰ Furthermore, according to [D&C 68:2d-2e](#) with [D&C 104:3b-5,8d](#), *a high priest of the Melchisedec priesthood has authority to officiate in*

⁸³ I Nephi 1:60-63

⁸⁴ I Nephi 1:65,106

⁸⁵ I Nephi 1:158-168

⁸⁶ I Nephi 1:164,165 with Alma 8:3

⁸⁷ This is manifestly evident because detailed information of Melchizedek and the priesthood he held are found in the Book of Mormon; compare [Alma 9:63-73](#) & [Alma 10:1-16](#) with [Genesis 14:26-40](#) & [Hebrews 7:4-10](#)

⁸⁸ [Hebrews 7:14](#)

⁸⁹ [III Nephi 7:5-12](#) with [Matthew 5:19-21](#)

⁹⁰ [D&C 83:3a-6i](#), [D&C 104:8a-10](#)

all the lesser offices, i.e. those of the Aaronic priesthood. Thus, by establishing His own priesthood, that of *the Holy order of the Son of God*,⁹¹ among Lehi's family by faith, the Lord made a way for them to fulfill His commandments and thereby prosper in the land.

In practical terms, this clarification explains why more than one *high priest* existed at any given time in the chronology of the Book of Mormon.⁹² These high priests were not Levitical high priests who served among the priests of *the order of Aaron*. Instead, they were *high priests*⁹³ who were of *the order of Melchizedek*, as was Jesus.⁹⁴ Furthermore, just as more than one priest serves in *the order of Aaron* at any given time, similarly more than one high priest serves in *the order of Melchizedek* at any given time.⁹⁵

The order of Melchizedek priesthood was established among this small band of Hebrews for yet another reason. As written in the book of Hebrews, the law was given by way of the Levitical order and could not make anyone perfect.⁹⁶ However, *what the law could not do*, Jesus Christ was and is able to do through the Melchizedek priesthood for all those who repent and come unto Him to be saved *from* their sins.⁹⁷ Just as the Lamb of God was slain from the foundation of the world,⁹⁸ so were the works of God prepared from the foundation thereof.⁹⁹ Thus, *the righteousness which is by faith*¹⁰⁰ was extended to Lehi and his family in the same way as it has been to all mankind from the creation down to the present, even to all who believe on His name.¹⁰¹

In summary, through the holy priesthood of Christ, which is the Melchizedek order, this small remnant of the house of Joseph administered the ordinances of the law of Moses while

⁹¹ See II Nephi 5:2, Alma 3:73, etc. with Ether 5:11

⁹² e.g. Alma 9:62-73, Alma 10:1-3, Alma 21:34, Alma 21:73,74, & Helaman 2:22-26

⁹³ They were also referred to as *priests* in scripture, not to be confused with priests of the Levitical order; see Hebrews 7:1-3 & Hebrews 7:15-17 with Alma 1:37-42, Alma 4:1-10, Alma 9:62-73, etc.

⁹⁴ Hebrews 5:5,6 with Psalm 110:4

⁹⁵ Furthermore, just as one of the priests in the Levitical order serves as the high priest at any given time (see John 11:49-51 with John 18:12-14), a Melchizedek high priest serves, along with counselors, as the president of the high priesthood according to covenants and commandments of the church (cf. D&C 17:17, D&C 80:1a-1i, D&C 104:11a,11b, etc.). By rights, this presidency belongs to Jesus Christ (cf. Matthew 28:17-19 and Colossians 1:12-19 with D&C 58:5b; see also Revelation 3:21,22, Revelation 5:1-14, etc. with Genesis 49:10, Ezekiel 21:26,27, etc.). While our Lord lets out His vineyard to His servants, our Lord designates who will serve in this role and responsibility (Matthew 21:35-56 with D&C 98:6a-8c). As it is written, no one has the right to assume this authority or any other priesthood authority, except they are called as was Aaron was called by God (Hebrews 5:4-6 with John 3:28). In the words of Jesus to His apostles, "*You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit...*" (John 15:16).

⁹⁶ Hebrews 7:11-20

⁹⁷ See Romans 8:3 with Matthew 2:4

⁹⁸ John 1:29-37 & Revelation 13:8b with D&C 36:9d

⁹⁹ Hebrews 4:3

¹⁰⁰ See Romans 9:30, Galatians 5:5, Philippians 3:9, etc.

¹⁰¹ John 20:30,31 with I John 1:1-3 & Hebrews 4:3

exercising faith in Jesus Christ until the time He redeemed mankind. Through this same priesthood, they were enabled to also minister unto their people by way of the ordinances of faith so they too might exercise faith in their Redeemer unto eternal salvation.

A Better Hope, A Better Testament (Covenant)

In the letter to the Hebrews, we read of how Jesus Christ provided a *better hope* than the law of the Levitical order by way of a *better testament* or covenant.¹⁰² The children of Israel had received the law of Moses under the Levitical priesthood.¹⁰³ However, with Moses accompanying them, God had prepared the way for the Melchizedek order of priesthood to also accompany the house of Israel into the promised land.¹⁰⁴ Thus, through Moses, they had been ministered to by the Melchizedek priesthood when they were brought out of bondage in Egypt.¹⁰⁵

Originally, the Lord intended that the ministry of the Melchizedek priesthood would continue on with them in the Promised Land. However, because of their rebellion against the Lord and those of His priesthood, the Lord withdrew Moses and the priesthood from their midst.¹⁰⁶ The children of Israel vexed the Lord's Holy Spirit¹⁰⁷ by worshipping an idol of gold rather than worshipping the Lord their God and Him alone.¹⁰⁸ In consequence of their transgression, God took Moses and the greater priesthood (the Melchizedek order) out from their midst, but caused the lesser priesthood (the Levitical order) to continue on in their midst until John the Baptist was raised up when preparing the way before the Lord.¹⁰⁹ This change in priesthood was instituted at the time Moses was commanded to make a second set of stone tablets upon which the covenant at Horeb was to be rewritten.¹¹⁰

Moses had broken the first two tablets of God upon seeing the people revel in their trans-

¹⁰² This was demonstrated in part through the precedence in which tithes were paid; [Hebrews 7:4-11](#).

¹⁰³ [Hebrews 7:11](#); e.g. [Numbers 1:49-53](#), etc.

¹⁰⁴ Compare [Exodus 34:1,2](#) & [Deuteronomy 10:2](#) with [Acts 7:37](#) [Exodus 3:1-18](#) & [Galatians 3:18,19](#)

¹⁰⁵ cf. [Numbers 11:23-25](#) with [II Corinthians 3:12-18](#)

¹⁰⁶ See [Exodus 34:1,2 IV](#) & [Deuteronomy 10:2 IV](#) with [D&C 83:4a-4f](#); Moses too was greatly grieved because of the sinful ways of the people over which he had charge. Out of frustration with them, he too sinned (see [Numbers 20:7-12](#)). More incidents may have happened to Moses had he continued with these "rebels" as he called them. Yet, God was also merciful to Moses by taking him out of their midst. For he had led them many years only to see so many die on the way. Seeing their children die in the promised land for the same reason, rebellion against the Lord, may have proven even more harmful to this man of God who served Him so faithfully in bringing them out of bondage in Egypt.

¹⁰⁷ The Holy Ghost is the gift bestowed by Jesus according to the terms of the new covenant; see [Romans 5:5](#) & [Ephesians 1:13,14](#) with [Mark 1:6](#), etc.

¹⁰⁸ [Exodus 20:1-17](#) with [Deuteronomy 5:1-29](#); see also [I Corinthians 10:1-14](#) with [Exodus 32:1-35](#), cf. [Psalm 95:8-11](#) & [Hebrews 3:6-19](#) with [Numbers 14:26-37](#), [Numbers 32:11-13](#), [Deuteronomy 2:14,15](#); cf. [Isaiah 63:9,10](#), etc.

¹⁰⁹ See [D&C 83:4a-4d](#) with [Exodus 34:1,2](#)

¹¹⁰ [Exodus 34:1,2 IV](#) & [Deuteronomy 10:2 IV](#) with [D&C 83:4a-4f](#)

gressions at the time he came down from the presence of the Lord in the mount. Upon replacing the broken tablets with new ones, the Lord wrote the same commandments to be administered by the Levitical order of priesthood, but He did not include those of the Melchizedek order.¹¹¹ This meant that the people would be required to keep the law but without the spiritual guidance and blessings that are administered by the greater priesthood.

In practical terms, the people would be without complete spiritual guidance and understanding when observing and carrying out the law of Moses. Had they yet had the Melchizedek priesthood in their midst, they would have understood the plain and precious meaning of the law and the various elements of it and how it was meant to be a *schoolmaster* to point them to the coming Messiah.¹¹² More importantly, had the greater priesthood remained in their midst, they would have come to know the *One* to whom it was intended to direct them for their redemption. Had this been the case, the Old Testament narrative would have included much clearer references to the Messiah and His work of redemption, such as are found in the Book of Mormon.

Stated another way, without the presence of the greater priesthood to explain the purpose and to give meaning to the ordinances of the preparatory ministry, the people were required to obey the law without a full understanding of why the law was given. That is, they could not see clearly how it pointed them to Jesus Christ, the One in whom the law had its *end*. As the Apostle Paul wrote, “...Moses ... put a veil over his face, that the children of Israel could not steadfastly look to the end [Christ]¹¹³ of that which is abolished [the law];¹¹⁴ But their minds were blinded; for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart.”¹¹⁵

In stark contrast to what Paul explained about Moses and the law, members of the Melchizedek priesthood identified in the Book of Mormon administered the ordinances of their priesthood to Lehi’s posterity for many generations before the coming of Jesus Christ among them in the flesh.¹¹⁶ They preached faith in Jesus Christ; they called all to repentance and reliance on His atonement; they baptized the people by water for the remission of sins and entered into a covenant with Him;¹¹⁷ and many of those to whom they ministered received the baptism of the Holy Ghost through faith on the words they preached.¹¹⁸ By way of these

¹¹¹ See Exodus 34:1,2, Deuteronomy 10:2, D&C 83:4a-4f with II Corinthians 3:1-18

¹¹² Galatians 3:24-26 with II Nephi 11:43-51

¹¹³ See Romans 10:4 with III Nephi 7:9-12

¹¹⁴ See Hebrews 10:1-9 with III Nephi 7:9-12

¹¹⁵ II Corinthians 3:13-16

¹¹⁶ e.g. Alma 3 (be sure to read the introduction of this chapter) along with Alma 4, Alma 5, etc.

¹¹⁷ e.g. Mosiah 9:35-67 with III Nephi 2:96,97

¹¹⁸ e.g. Mosiah 3:1-21, III Nephi 3:62-65, etc.

greater order of ordinances, the Lord provided a more excellent way for His people to come to know and understand the significance of the preparatory ordinances of their *schoolmaster*, the law of Moses.¹¹⁹

While the larger camp of Israel remained without the ministry of the Melchizedek priesthood, yet the Lord kept for Himself a remnant of His covenant people, those who would not rebel against His Spirit but who honored Him in becoming righteous before Him. To these God raised up high priests of the Melchizedek order who faithfully served Him by feeding His sheep with His words.¹²⁰ To these He gave His Spirit so His people might not dwindle in unbelief but would prosper in the land into which He carried them.

This is My Beloved Son, Hear Him

Because the Book of Mormon *is* the new covenant, it includes little information about Moses, the covenant he mediated, the law he gave, or the Levitical priesthood who administered the ordinances of the law of Moses.¹²¹ Rather, it speaks of Jesus Christ, the covenant He mediates, and the ordinances of His priesthood, i.e. those of the Melchizedek order.¹²² Therefore, because the focus of this special book is on the Son of God and His ministry, the witness which the Book of Mormon delivers to the world is consistent with the declaration that it *is* indeed the new covenant that Jesus Christ mediates.¹²³ Through this precious book our Lord is manifesting Himself and His priesthood to all nations to the end that there will be one shepherd and one fold.¹²⁴

John the Baptist,¹²⁵ like Moses before him, pointed the children of Israel to Jesus Christ, whom he also positively identified as the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world.¹²⁶ Thus, Moses and John confirmed the preeminence of Christ in a similar way, one that served to demonstrate the superiority of His priesthood over that of the Levitical order. The witness of each man was further confirmed by their presence upon the mount of transfiguration with Jesus Christ.¹²⁷

On this mount, the ultimate declaration of the supremacy of Christ and His office and calling

¹¹⁹ e.g. Alma 14:7-65 & Alma 17:35-40 with II Nephi 11:43-51, Galatians 3:16-27, etc.; see also I Corinthians 12:31 & Ether 5:11-12

¹²⁰ cf. John 21:15-19 with Mark 1:14-16

¹²¹ Heuristically speaking, the Book of Mormon is a new covenant book, not an old covenant book.

¹²² cf. D&C 39:1a-2b, D&C 53:2b & D&C 55:1c-1d with II Nephi 13:1-32 along with Mosiah 9:28-67, Alma 3:1-108, Alma 4:1-10, Alma 5:14-44, etc.

¹²³ Alma 9:62-64 with Alma 10:1-14

¹²⁴ Title Page, I Nephi 7:58, III Nephi 7:16,20, etc. with John 10:16 & Matthew 15:23

¹²⁵ Also spoken of by Lehi and Nephi in I Nephi 3:7-12 & II Nephi 13:6,7, respectively.

¹²⁶ See Mark 1:5-9, John 1:20-29 with Deuteronomy 18:15,18-19 & Acts 3:23

¹²⁷ Matthew 17:1-3 with Mark 9:1-5 & Luke 9:28-35

was fully revealed. This unique declaration came in reply to Peter when he saw Moses and Elias (John the Baptist) ¹²⁸ standing with Jesus and proposed that they raise three tabernacles in honor of these three men. To Peter's suggestion our heavenly Father responded firmly and unequivocally: *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

The declarations made by Moses, John, and our Heavenly Father, which showed a clear preeminence of our Lord's office and calling, also showed a clear superiority of His priesthood over that of the order of the Levitical priesthood. However, the priesthood office Jesus held did not, in and of itself, distinguish Him from all other priesthood. Stated another way, Jesus Christ was not set apart from all others by His priesthood alone. This we know in part because the office of priesthood which He holds forever is referred to as an *order* of priesthood, specifically *the order of Melchizedek*.¹²⁹ That is, the use of the term "order" shows us that Jesus is not the only member of this particular order of priesthood. Therefore, being a high priest after the order of Melchizedek did not uniquely set Him apart from all others.

Similarly, Jesus was not set apart from all others because He was called a prophet by Moses or listed as an apostle in the letter to the Hebrews in the Bible.¹³⁰ We know this because Jesus ordained other apostles and prophets who were to minister in the world after He ascended into heaven.¹³¹ For example, our Lord called twelve apostles at the beginning of His ministry; others would be called later, such as Paul. All of the apostles and prophets He called and set apart for His service were to bear witness of Him in all the earth unto the end of the world.¹³² Moreover, they were called to do the same works He had done on earth, but even more works because He ascended into heaven unto the Father.¹³³ Thus we see that the work of the apostles and prophets was just beginning when Jesus ascended into heaven.¹³⁴ In fine, Jesus was not the only Melchizedek high priest, apostle, or prophet who would minister in the world.

How is it then that Jesus is set above all mankind and all angels? He is the Son of God, the Only Begotten Son of the Father.¹³⁵ He is set above all creation by virtue of the fact that the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Him.¹³⁶ He was anointed by our Heavenly Father to be the Messiah, the Christ, the One who would be the *mediator* of the new covenant.¹³⁷ Thus,

¹²⁸ Matthew 17:9-14 with Mark 9:3

¹²⁹ Psalm 110:4 with Hebrews 5:6,10, Hebrews 6:20, Hebrews 7:11,17,21

¹³⁰ See Hebrews 3:1

¹³¹ Ephesians 4:8-16 & I Corinthians 12:4-31 with II Corinthians 3:17,18

¹³² Matthew 28:17-19

¹³³ John 14:12

¹³⁴ John 15:26,27 with Acts 1:5,8

¹³⁵ John 1:14 with Jacob 3:16; Note: Jesus was not set above angels because He was the Son of Man, however; this we know because mankind was made a little lower than the angels; Hebrews 2:5-8.

¹³⁶ Colossians 1:9-24 & Colossians 2:6-10 with Hebrews 2:9-18

¹³⁷ See Luke 4:16-21 Isaiah 61:1-4; and Galatians 3:20 & Hebrews 12:24 with I Timothy 2:1-7

everyone must hear Him in all things or they will be cut off from among the people.¹³⁸

Though others may hold the same priesthood office as Jesus Christ, i.e. that of the order of Melchizedek, no other person, not even the same Melchizedek to whom Abraham paid tithes, will ever be placed above Jesus.¹³⁹ For He alone is our Lord, which is a unique office belonging only to Him. Jesus Christ is the head of the church and the only keeper of the gate by which we may enter into the kingdom of heaven.¹⁴⁰

Everyone will eventually worship Jesus Christ. He alone has prevailed against death and the grave.¹⁴¹ He alone prevailed as our Advocate with the Father by atoning for the sins of the world.¹⁴² To Jesus Christ alone has been given the power of the resurrection and eternal life. Thus, He alone can be spoken of as *the resurrection and the life*.¹⁴³ Thus, everyone will appear before Him to be judged of their works in this world.¹⁴⁴

By His ministry among them, the authors of the Book of Mormon became eyewitnesses of Jesus Christ and the words of truth He taught. When Jesus Christ appeared to a remnant of their people, they too heard the heavenly declaration, “Behold My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified My name – Hear ye Him!”¹⁴⁵ Then, when Jesus appeared among them, He declared, “Behold, I Am Jesus Christ of which the prophets testified that should come into the world; and behold, I Am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given Me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon Me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning... I Am the God of Israel and the God of the whole earth and have been slain for the sins of the world.”¹⁴⁶

Inasmuch as Ye Shall Keep My Commandments

A consistent and recurring message from the Lord that is found throughout the Book of Mormon is: “Inasmuch as ye shall keep My commandments, ye shall prosper in the land [of

¹³⁸ Deuteronomy 18:15,18,19 with Acts 3:22-24

¹³⁹ Even Melchizedek, for whom the holy order of the priesthood which Jesus Christ held, must bow to this truth, that Jesus alone is worthy to intercede on our behalf because He was without sin. Jesus was anointed by God to atone for the sins of the world. He alone is capable and caring enough to intercede on our behalf. Though Melchizedek was a great high priest, he must yet bow before the Lord; for it is written, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

¹⁴⁰ See Ephesians 5:23 with II Nephi 6:79-85

¹⁴¹ See Revelation 5:1-14 with Philippians 2:5-11

¹⁴² I John 2:1,2

¹⁴³ John 11:25

¹⁴⁴ II Corinthians 5:9-11 with Alma 8:98-104

¹⁴⁵ III Nephi 5:8

¹⁴⁶ III Nephi 5:11,12,14

promise], ***But inasmuch as ye will not keep My commandments, ye shall be cut off from My presence.***¹⁴⁷

Compare these words with the words of Moses when he testified of the prophet like himself who would come after him. “... *A Prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed [cut off] from among the people.*”¹⁴⁸

This comparison reveals yet another key internal witness that the Book of Mormon is indeed the new covenant spoken of by the prophets.¹⁴⁹ Because this precious book manifests or reveals the words of the Lord (regarding the same prophet of whom Moses spoke), whosoever rejects Jesus Christ and His words by rejecting this book will be cut off from among the people at an appointed time.¹⁵⁰

Laman and Lemuel, Lehi’s oldest two sons, are examples of people upon whom this judgment fell. They rebelled against their father Lehi and their brother Nephi, both of whom were eyewitnesses of the Lord. Because they rejected the ministry and witness of Jesus Christ which Lehi and Nephi brought to them, they were *cut off* from the Lord just as Moses and Lehi prophesied.¹⁵¹

Plainly stated, this is a new covenant theme, even an edict from the Lord.¹⁵² Note further that Laman and Lemuel were cut off from the presence of the Lord because they rejected the words of the Mediator of the new covenant, not because they rejected the words of Moses. They failed to hearken to the prophet Moses testified would come. They failed to heed the words Jesus Christ spoke by those who kept the record now known as the Book of Mormon.

John the Baptist¹⁵³ spoke of these things as well, saying the axe is laid at the root of every tree that does not bear fruit for the Lord’s kingdom.¹⁵⁴ Similarly stated, those who are grafted into the True Vine but who do not bear fruit to the glory of the Father will be *cut off* by the Father and be readied to be burned.¹⁵⁵

¹⁴⁷ II Nephi 1:34

¹⁴⁸ Acts 3:22,23

¹⁴⁹ Jeremiah 31:31-34, etc.

¹⁵⁰ D&C 1:3c, D&C 56:2a, D&C 108:11e with III Nephi 9:61 & III Nephi 9:98

¹⁵¹ I Nephi 1:54-58 & II Nephi 4:29-32 with I Nephi 7:45 (cf. Daniel 12:10 with II Nephi 12:84)

¹⁵² cf. Matthew 7:25-34, etc.

¹⁵³ Also spoken of by Lehi and Nephi: I Nephi 3:7-12 & II Nephi 13:6,7

¹⁵⁴ Matthew 3:37, Luke 3:14

¹⁵⁵ John 15:1-8 with Revelation 21:8

The Very Points of His Doctrine

As shown in the foregoing sections, the Book of Mormon clearly displays the presence of the ministry and ordinances of the *Melchizedek* priesthood among the Nephites (a remnant of the house of Israel) prior to Jesus Christ fulfilling the law of Moses. This is **vital** evidence that this unique record is, indeed, the new covenant mediated by our Lord.¹⁵⁶

To illustrate the importance of this truth, consider how nearly 600 years before the birth of Christ, Nephi plainly taught and ministered according to the ordinances of this priesthood as follows:¹⁵⁷ 1) faith in the name of Jesus Christ, 2) repentance from sin and dead works, 3) baptism by water for the remission of sins, and 4) the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The authors who came after Nephi similarly taught and ministered according to these ordinances of the new covenant which Jesus Christ mediates.¹⁵⁸

Plainly stated, the Book of Mormon is not an old covenant book but a new covenant book. This is because it is not about the old covenant and its ordinances and laws. Rather, this book is about the new covenant and the doctrines of Jesus Christ, the mediator of the new covenant. It was prepared and brought forth in these latter days to raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel in these latter days.¹⁵⁹

Nevertheless, Nephi and those who followed him taught their people to keep the law of Moses until such time that Jesus Christ would manifest Himself to them in the flesh, which He did following His resurrection and ascension into heaven.¹⁶⁰ At that time, when our Lord physically appeared among them and they heard His voice, Jesus Christ testified to them that the law of Moses had an *end* in Him.¹⁶¹ In its place, Jesus taught that they were to keep the commandments which He had personally given them, as Moses and Nephi after him also testified they must do or they would be cut off from the Lord's presence.¹⁶²

Jesus Christ also caused them to understand that *the new covenant* had not as yet been completely fulfilled.¹⁶³ Its fulfillment will involve more than our Lord's resurrection and

¹⁵⁶ Ref. D&C 83:8b; Note: the stated condemnation is due to the *bride* or *church* treating the words of the bridegroom, the Word, lightly – see D&C 83:7a-7i.

¹⁵⁷ See in particular II Nephi 13:3-32, II Nephi 14:1-12, & II Nephi 15:1-18. Note: for comparison, the ordinances of the Melchizedek priesthood are briefly summarized in D&C 3:14a-18, D&C 18:4d, D&C 39:2a,2b, D&C 53:2a,2b, D&C 68:4a-4c, etc.

¹⁵⁸ For example: Jacob 3:1-9, Enos 1:4-11, Jarom 1:2-4, Omni 1:46,47, Mosiah 2:1-50, Mosiah 9:28-67, Alma 3:1-108, Alma 9:1-73 & Alma 10:1-30, Helaman 5:2-110, III Nephi 2:96-109, etc.

¹⁵⁹ See II Nephi 6:104-105 & II Nephi 7:1-44 with II Nephi 2:6-9 and Jacob 2:34-35; see esp. I Nephi 3:184-205

¹⁶⁰ See II Nephi 11:45-51, II Nephi 14:7,8 with III Nephi 4:74,75

¹⁶¹ III Nephi 7:5-26 with II Nephi 11:45-51

¹⁶² III Nephi 7:10-12; cf. II Nephi 14:7,8

¹⁶³ III Nephi 7:9-12 with Hebrews 7:12.

subsequent ascension into heaven.¹⁶⁴ It involves the Lord placing His laws into their minds and writing them in their hearts until they all know Him *from the least to the greatest*.¹⁶⁵ This was demonstrated through the outpouring of the Holy Ghost in the first rain on the day of Pentecost.¹⁶⁶ Now, according to prophecy of Joel, another outpouring of the Holy Ghost promised in the new covenant awaits God's people. For as Joel testified, this precious gift would be granted in two seasons: 1) the moderate, former rain, which was granted on Pentecost as described in the second chapter of Acts; and 2) the latter rain, which is yet to come.¹⁶⁷ Just as the former rain brought a dramatic change in the lives of God's people, the same will occur again in these latter days when the latter rains come upon a remnant of the house of Israel.

Come Unto Christ and Be Perfected in Him

The witness of Jesus Christ presented in the Book of Mormon to the world is summed up at the close of the book in a compelling invitation to come unto Jesus Christ and be perfected in Him through *grace divine*.¹⁶⁸ This invitation to go on unto perfection is also a signature of the new covenant mediated by Jesus Christ. We find it clearly stated in the Hebrew letter preserved in the Bible. There, we read of this same call to perfection: *Therefore not leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection... And we will go on unto perfection if God permit*.¹⁶⁹ True to its calling, then, the Book of Mormon brings us to focus upon Christ and His work of fulfilling the new covenant in our individual lives as spoken of by the prophets of old.

Throughout its pages, the authors of the Book of Mormon testify of their Redeemer and His perfecting doctrine.¹⁷⁰ For example, Nephi (Lehi's son) continued in the work and ministry of his father by faithfully bearing witness of the eternal truths of the gospel.¹⁷¹ He spoke plainly and clearly about the very principles of the gospel and of the doctrine of Jesus Christ.¹⁷² Once we enter into the way, as Nephi shows us, we must press forward along the path beside the rod of iron (the word of God) and on unto the tree of life. At the heart of our motivation to keep pressing forward – until we come to kneel at the tree of life to partake of its fruit forever – is the *perfect brightness* of hope and the love of God and all men.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁴ The new covenant will be completely fulfilled when [Hebrews 8:6-13](#) and the related prophecies in Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the other prophets regarding it are all fulfilled.

¹⁶⁵ [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) with [D&C 1:4a-4e](#)

¹⁶⁶ [Acts 2:1-47](#) with [Acts 1:4-8](#)

¹⁶⁷ [Joel 2:23-32](#) & [Acts 2:16-21](#)

¹⁶⁸ [Moroni 10:27-30](#) II [Nephi 7:44](#)

¹⁶⁹ [Hebrews 6:1-3](#); For more details, see the post, [Why not go on unto perfection?](#)

¹⁷⁰ e.g. II [Nephi 13:29-32](#)

¹⁷¹ II [Nephi 13:1-32](#) with I [Nephi 3:23-40](#)

¹⁷² II [Nephi 11:53-59](#)

¹⁷³ II [Nephi 27-30](#) with I [Nephi 3:68,69](#) & I [Nephi 4:38-42](#)

Nephi explained fully the plan of salvation, teaching about *the gate* by which we may enter in the way which leads to eternal life, that of repentance and baptism.¹⁷⁴ He further taught the core of the ministry of the Melchizedek priesthood, that of the baptism of the Holy Ghost by which we are led in the way into all truth.¹⁷⁵ These teachings form the foundation of the gospel of Jesus Christ¹⁷⁶ and are thus the principle ordinances of the Melchizedek priesthood,¹⁷⁷ which is the priesthood of our Lord and of all those who administer *the new covenant* He mediates.¹⁷⁸

By pressing onward in the Way¹⁷⁹, the doctrine of Christ will begin to be written in the hearts of God's covenant people by faith, the various elements of which are found in the Book of Mormon. These are the terms and conditions of the new covenant. They are the *very points* by which we must enter into and abide in the covenant He mediates.¹⁸⁰ Moroni summarized these doctrinal points in the concluding ten chapters of the book, ending with the invitation to come unto Christ and be perfected in Him.

Moroni 10:29,30 – Yea, come unto Christ and be perfected in Him and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ and deny not His power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

According to The Testimony of Jesus Christ

This concluding section presents a limited selection of the writings and prophecies of the authors and prophets of the Book of Mormon. The many words spoken directly by Jesus Christ as recorded in III Nephi¹⁸¹ specifically have not been included in this section for the purpose of featuring the words spoken by His servants. Please read this essential witness of the Book of Mormon for the detailed instruction and interpretation of the prophets our Lord

¹⁷⁴ II Nephi 13:11,23-37

¹⁷⁵ II Nephi 13:24-26 with John 16:13,14

¹⁷⁶ I Corinthians 3:9-14

¹⁷⁷ e.g. D&C 53:2b, D&C 55:1c,1d, etc.

¹⁷⁸ Hebrews 5:5,6,9,10 & Hebrews 7:14-17

¹⁷⁹ John 14:6 with John 1:14-18

¹⁸⁰ I Nephi 4:19, Alma 19:72, Helaman 4:29, III Nephi 5:29, III Nephi 9:92

¹⁸¹ See III Nephi 4, III Nephi 5, III Nephi 6, III Nephi 7, III Nephi 8, III Nephi 9, III Nephi 10, III Nephi 11, III Nephi 12, and III Nephi 13

provided in His teaching and ministry to this remnant of the house of Israel.

The selected quotes in this section are intended to let the authors of the Book of Mormon speak for themselves regarding the priesthood to which they were called and by which they ministered to their people.¹⁸² While this selection does not include all that they wrote on this topic, it does provide a sampling of their words and their works. With this in mind, may God richly bless and keep you as you feast upon the words of Christ penned by these humble and steadfast servants of the Lord who faithfully kept an account of His ministry among them.

As you read their recorded testimony of Jesus Christ, remember that their writings were prepared and preserved so future generations would come to know of their faith in Him and likewise exercise faith in Him.¹⁸³ For, according to their faith, they prayed mightily that future generations of their brethren, the Lamanites, might also come to a saving knowledge of the Messiah, the Holy One of Israel, at a time appointed by the Lord. That time is now.

- **The Voice of Lehi:**

From: I Nephi 1:13

*Great and marvelous are Thy works,
O Lord God Almighty!
Thy throne is high in the heavens!
And Thy power and goodness and mercy are over
all the inhabitants of the earth;
And because Thou art merciful, Thou wilt not suffer those
who come unto Thee, that they shall perish!*

From: II Nephi 1:116-128

*And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that He
might redeem the children of men from the fall;
And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they
have become free forever, knowing good from evil,
To act for themselves and not to be acted upon, save it be
by the punishment of the Lord at the great and last day,
according to the commandments which God hath given.
Wherefore, men are free, according to the flesh;
And all things are given them which are expedient*

¹⁸² The formatting shown has been selected for readability and is from <http://www.restoredcovenant.org/>

¹⁸³ Alma 14:37,38 & I Nephi 3:26-32 with II Nephi 6:103-105

*unto man;
 And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life
 through the great Mediator of all men,
 Or to choose captivity and death, according to
 the captivity and power of the devil,
 For he seeketh that all men might be miserable
 like unto himself.
 And now my sons, I would that ye should
 look to the great Mediator and hearken
 unto His great commandments,
 And be faithful unto His words and choose eternal life,
 according to the will of His Holy Spirit,
 And not choose eternal death, according to the will
 of the flesh and the evil which is therein,
 Which giveth the spirit of the devil power to captivate,
 to bring you down to hell, that he may reign over you
 in his own kingdom.
 I have spoken these few words unto you all,
 my sons, in the last days of my probation;
 And I have chosen the good part, according to
 the words of the prophet;
 And I have none other object, save it be
 the everlasting welfare of your souls. Amen.*

- **The Voice of Nephi:**

From: II Nephi 11:27-59

*And when that day shall come
 that they shall believe in Christ,
 And worship the Father in His name,
 with pure hearts and clean hands,
 And look not forward anymore for another Messiah –
 And then at that time, the day will come that it must needs
 be expedient that they should believe these things.
 And the Lord will set His hand again the second time
 to restore His people from their lost and fallen state;
 Wherefore, He will proceed to do a marvelous work
 and a wonder among the children of men.
 Wherefore, He shall bring forth His words unto them,
 which words shall judge them at the last day,*

*For they shall be given them for the purpose of convincing
them of the true Messiah who was rejected by them,
And unto the convincing of them that they need not look
forward anymore for a Messiah to come,
For there should not any come, save it should be a false
messiah which should deceive the people;
For there is save one Messiah spoken of by the prophets,
And that Messiah is He which should be rejected
of the Jews,
For according to the words of the prophets,
the Messiah cometh in six hundred years
from the time that my father left Jerusalem;
And according to the words of the prophets, and also
the word of the angel of God, His name
should be Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
And now my brethren, I have spoken plain
that ye cannot err;
And as the Lord God liveth that brought Israel
up out of the Land of Egypt,
And gave unto Moses power that he should heal
the nations, that after that they had been bitten by
the poisonous serpents, if they would cast their eyes
unto the serpent which he did raise up before them,
And also gave him power that he should smite the rock
and the water should come forth,
Yea, behold I say unto you that as these things are true,
And as the Lord God liveth,
There is none other name given under heaven,
save it be this Jesus Christ of which I have spoken,
whereby man can be saved.
Wherefore, for this cause hath the Lord God promised
unto me that these things which I write shall be kept
and preserved and handed down unto my seed
from generation to generation:
That the promise may be fulfilled unto Joseph that his seed
should never perish as long as the earth should stand.
Wherefore, these things shall go from generation
to generation as long as the earth shall stand;
And they shall go according to
the will and pleasure of God;*

*And the nations which shall possess them shall be judged
of them, according to the words which are written;
For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children
and also our brethren to believe in Christ
and to be reconciled to God,
For we know that it is by grace that we are saved,
after all that we can do.
And notwithstanding we believe in Christ,
We keep the law of Moses and look forward with stead-
fastness unto Christ until the law shall be fulfilled,
For, for this end was the law given;
Wherefore, the law hath become dead unto us,
And we are made alive in Christ because of our faith;
Yet we keep the law because of the commandments;
And we talk of Christ,
We rejoice in Christ,
We preach of Christ,
We prophesy of Christ,
And we write according to our prophecies,
that our children may know to what source
they may look for a remission of their sins.
Wherefore, we speak concerning the law, that our
children may know the deadness of the law;
And they, by knowing the deadness of the law,
may look forward unto that life which is in Christ
and know for what end the law was given;
And after that the law is fulfilled in Christ, that they
need not harden their hearts against Him
when the law had ought to be done away.
And now behold, my people, ye are a stiff-necked people;
Wherefore, I have spoken plain unto you,
that ye cannot misunderstand;
And the words which I have spoken
shall stand as a testimony against you,
For they are sufficient to teach any man the right way;
For the right way is to believe in Christ and deny Him not,
For by denying Him ye also deny the prophets and the law.
And now behold, I say unto you that the right way
is to believe in Christ and deny Him not;
And Christ is the Holy One of Israel.*

*Wherefore, ye must bow down before Him
and worship Him with all your might,
mind and strength and your whole soul;
And if ye do this, ye shall in no wise be cast out;
And inasmuch as it shall be expedient, ye must keep
the performances and ordinances of God until the
law shall be fulfilled which was given unto Moses.
And after that Christ shall have risen from the dead,
He shall show Himself unto you, my children
and my beloved brethren,
And the words which He shall speak unto you
shall be the law which ye shall do.*

From: II Nephi 15:1-12

*And now I, Nephi, cannot write all the things
which were taught among my people,
Neither am I mighty in writing, like unto speaking,
For when a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost,
the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts
of the children of men.
But behold, there are many that harden their hearts
against the Holy Spirit, that it hath no place in them;
Wherefore, they cast many things away which are written
and esteem them as things of naught.
But I, Nephi, have written what I have written;
And I esteem it as of great worth,
and especially unto my people,
For I pray for them continually by day,
And mine eyes water my pillow by night because of them;
And I cry unto my God in faith and I know
that He will hear my cry;
And I know that the Lord God will consecrate
my prayers for the gain of my people;
And the things which I have written in weakness
will He make strong unto them,
for it persuadeth them to do good;
It maketh known unto them of their fathers,
And it speaketh of Jesus,
and persuadeth men to believe in Him,
and to endure to the end, which is life eternal,*

*And it speaketh harsh against sin,
 according to the plainness of the truth;
 Wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I
 have written, save he shall be of the spirit of the devil.
 I glory in plainness!
 I glory in truth!
 I glory in my Jesus, for He hath
 redeemed my soul from hell!
 I have charity for my people,
 And great faith in Christ that I shall meet
 many souls spotless at His judgment seat.
 I have charity for the Jew – I say Jew because
 I mean them from whence I came;
 I also have charity for the Gentiles;
 But behold, for none of these I cannot hope,
 except they shall be reconciled unto Christ,
 And enter into the narrow gate and walk
 in the strait path which leads to life,
 And continue in the path until
 the end of the day of probation.
 And now my beloved brethren, and also Jew
 and all ye ends of the earth,
 Hearken unto these words and believe in Christ;
 And if ye believe not in these words, believe in Christ;
 And if ye shall believe in Christ, ye will believe
 in these words, for they are the words of Christ
 and He hath given them unto me;
 And they teach all men that they should do good.*

- **The Voice of Jacob:**

From: II Nephi 5:2-8

*Behold, my beloved brethren, that I, Jacob,
**having been called of God and ordained
 after the manner of His holy order,**
 And having been consecrated by my brother Nephi,
 unto whom ye look as a king or a protector,
 and on whom ye depend for safety –
 Behold, ye know that I have spoken unto you
 exceeding many things;*

*Nevertheless, I speak unto you again, for I am
desirous for the welfare of your souls,
Yea, mine anxiety is great for you and
ye yourselves know that it ever has been;
For I have exhorted you with all diligence,
And I have taught you the words of my father,
And I have spoken unto you concerning all things
which are written from the creation of the world.*

From: II Nephi 6:99-105

*Come, my brethren:
Everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters;
And he that hath no money, come, buy and eat.
Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money
and without price.
Wherefore, do not spend money
for that which is of no worth,
Nor your labor for that which cannot satisfy.
Hearken diligently unto me and remember the words
which I have spoken,
And come unto the Holy One of Israel
and feast upon that which perisheth not,
neither can be corrupted:
And let your soul delight in fatness.
Behold, my beloved brethren, remember
the words of your God –
Pray unto Him continually by day and give thanks
unto His holy name by night;
Let your hearts rejoice and behold how great
the covenants of the Lord,
And how great His condescensions
unto the children of men;
And because of His greatness and His grace and mercy,
He hath promised unto us that our seed shall not
utterly be destroyed, according to the flesh,
but that He would preserve them;
And in future generations they shall become
a righteous branch unto the house of Israel.*

From: II Nephi 7:33-44

*And now my beloved brethren, seeing that our merciful
God hath given us so great knowledge
concerning these things,
Let us remember Him and lay aside our sins and not
hang down our heads, for we are not cast off.
Nevertheless, we have been driven out of the land of our
inheritance, but we have been led to a better land,
For the Lord hath made the sea our path
and we are upon an isle of the sea;
But great are the promises of the Lord unto they
which are upon the isles of the sea.
Wherefore, as it saith isles, there must needs be
more than this,
And they are inhabited also by our brethren;
For behold, the Lord God hath led away
from time to time from the house of Israel
according to His will and pleasure.
And now behold, the Lord remembereth
all they which are broken off;
Wherefore, He remembereth us also;
Therefore, cheer up your hearts,
And remember that ye are free to act for yourselves –
to choose the way of everlasting death,
or the way of eternal life;
Wherefore my beloved brethren, reconcile yourselves to the
will of God and not to the will of the devil and the flesh.
And remember, that after ye are reconciled unto God,
That it is only in and through the grace of God
that ye are saved;
Wherefore, may God raise you from death
by the power of the resurrection,
And also from everlasting death
by the power of the atonement,
That ye may be received into the eternal kingdom of God,
That ye may praise Him through grace divine. Amen.*

- **The Voice of Enos:**

From: Enos 1:1-30

*Behold, it came to pass that I, Enos, knowing
my father, that he was a just man, for he taught me
in his language and also in the nurture
and admonition of the Lord;
And blessed be the name of my God for it;
And I will tell you of the wrestle which I had before God,
before that I received a remission of my sins.
Behold, I went to hunt beasts in the forest;
And the words which I had often heard my father speak
concerning eternal life and the joy of the saints –
And the words of my father sunk deep into my heart;
And my soul hungered;
And I kneeled down before my Maker
and I cried unto Him in mighty prayer
and supplication for mine own soul;
And all the day long did I cry unto Him;
Yea, and when the night came, I did still raise
my voice high, that it reached the heavens;
And there came a voice unto me, saying:
Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee
and thou shalt be blessed.
And I, Enos, knew that God could not lie;
Wherefore, my guilt was swept away.
And I saith:
Lord, how is it done?
And He saith unto me:
Because of thy faith in Christ whom
thou hast not heard nor seen;
And many years passeth away before that
He shall manifest Himself in the flesh;
Wherefore, go to it – thy faith hath made thee whole.
Now it came to pass that when I had heard these words,
I began to feel a desire for the welfare
of my brethren the Nephites;
Wherefore, I did pour out my whole soul
unto God for them.
And while I was thus struggling in the spirit, behold,*

*the voice of the Lord came into my mind again, saying:
I will visit thy brethren according to their diligence
in keeping My commandments;
I have given unto them this land and it is a holy land,
And I curse it not, save it be for the cause of iniquity;
Wherefore, I will visit thy brethren
according as I have said,
And their transgressions will I bring down
with sorrow upon their own heads.
And after that I, Enos, had heard these words,
my faith began to be unshaken in the Lord,
And I prayed unto Him with many long strugglings
for my brethren the Lamanites.
And it came to pass that after I had prayed and labored
with all diligence, the Lord said unto me:
I will grant unto thee according to thy desires
because of thy faith.
And now behold, this was the desire
which I desired of Him:
That if it should so be that my people the Nephites, should
fall into transgression and by any means be destroyed,
and the Lamanites should not be destroyed,
That the Lord God would preserve a record
of my people the Nephites,
Even if it so be by the power of His holy arm,
That it might be brought forth at some future day
unto the Lamanites, that perhaps they might
be brought unto salvation;
For at the present our strugglings were vain
in restoring them to the true faith,
And they swore in their wrath that if it were possible
they would destroy our records and us,
and also all the traditions of our fathers.
Wherefore, I, knowing that the Lord God was able to
preserve our records, I cried unto Him continually,
For He had said unto me:
Whatsoever thing ye shall ask in faith, believing that ye
shall receive, in the name of Christ, ye shall receive it.
And I had faith and I did cry unto God
that He would preserve the records;*

*And He covenanted with me that He would bring them
forth unto the Lamanites in His own due time;
And I, Enos, knew that it would be according to
the covenant which He had made,
Wherefore, my soul did rest;
And the Lord said unto me:
Thy fathers have also required of Me this thing;
And it shall be done unto them according to their faith,
for their faith was like unto thine.
And now it came to pass that I, Enos, went about among
the people of Nephi prophesying of things to come and
testifying of the things which I had heard and seen;
And I bear record that the people of Nephi
did seek diligently to restore the Lamanites
unto the true faith in God,*

- **The Voice of Jarom:**

From: Jarom 1:1-9

*Now behold, I, Jarom, write a few words
according to the commandment of my father Enos,
that our genealogy may be kept;
And as these plates are small, and as these things
are written for the intent of the benefit
of our brethren the Lamanites,
Wherefore, it must needs be that I write a little;
But I shall not write the things of my prophesying,
nor of my revelations,
For what could I write more than my fathers have written?
For have not they revealed the plan of salvation?
I say unto you, Yea,
And this sufficeth me.
Behold, it is expedient that much should be done
among this people,
Because of the hardness of their hearts,
and the deafness of their ears,
and the blindness of their minds,
and the stiffness of their necks;
Nevertheless, God is exceeding merciful unto them and
hath not as yet swept them off from the face of the land;*

*And there are many among us which have many
revelations, for they are not all stiff-necked;
And as many as are not stiff-necked and have faith have
communion with the Holy Spirit, which maketh mani-
fest unto the children of men according to their faith.*

- **The Voice of Amaleki:**

From: Omni 1:43-47

*And it came to pass that I began to be old;
And having no seed and knowing King Benjamin
to be a just man before the Lord,
Wherefore, I shall deliver up these plates unto him,
Exhorting all men to come unto God,
the Holy One of Israel,
And believe in prophesying,
and in revelations,
and in the ministering of angels,
and in the gift of speaking with tongues,
and in the gift of interpreting languages,
and in all things which are good;
For there is nothing which is good,
save it comes from the Lord,
And that which is evil cometh from the devil.
And now my beloved brethren, I would that ye should
come unto Christ, which is the Holy One of Israel,
and partake of His salvation and the power
of His redemption;
Yea, come unto Him,
and offer your whole souls as an offering unto Him,
and continue in fasting and praying,
and endure to the end;
And as the Lord liveth, ye will be saved.*

- **The Voice of King Benjamin:**

From: Mosiah 1:4-12

*My sons, I would that ye should remember that
were it not for these plates which contain
these records and these commandments,*

We must have suffered in ignorance, even at this present time, not knowing the mysteries of God; For it were not possible that our father Lehi could have remembered all these things, to have taught them to his children, except it were for the help of these plates; For he having been taught in the language of the Egyptians, therefore he could read these engravings and teach them to his children, that thereby they could teach them to their children, And so fulfilling the commandments of God, even down to this present time.

I say unto you my sons, were it not for these things which have been kept and preserved by the hand of God, that we might read and understand of His mysteries and have His commandments always before our eyes, That even our fathers would have dwindled in unbelief; And we should have been like unto our brethren, the Lamanites, which know nothing concerning these things, Or even do not believe them when they are taught them, because of the traditions of their fathers which are not correct.

O my sons, I would that ye should remember that these sayings are true, and also that these records are true, And behold, also the plates of Nephi which contain the records and the sayings of our fathers from the time they left Jerusalem until now – and they are true; And we can know of their surety because we have them before our eyes.

And now my sons, I would that ye should remember to search them diligently, that ye may profit thereby; And I would that ye should keep the commandments of God, that ye may prosper in the land according to the promises which the Lord made unto our fathers.

From: Mosiah 1:79-109

And now I say unto you my brethren, that after ye have known and have been taught all these things, If ye should transgress and go contrary to that which hath been spoken,

*That ye do withdraw yourselves from the Spirit
of the Lord, that it may have no place in you
to guide you in wisdom's paths, that ye may be blessed,
prospered and preserved –*

*I say unto you, that the man that doeth these things,
the same cometh out in open rebellion against God;
Therefore, he listeth to obey the evil spirit and becometh
an enemy to all righteousness;*

*Therefore, the Lord hath no place in him,
for He dwelleth not in unholy temples.*

*Therefore, if that man repenteth not and remaineth
and dieth an enemy to God, the demands of divine
justice doth awaken his immortal soul
to a lively sense of his own guilt,
Which doth cause him to shrink
from the presence of the Lord,
And doth fill his breast with guilt and pain and anguish,
which is like an unquenchable fire whose flames
ascendeth up forever and ever.*

*And now I say unto you, that mercy
hath no claim on that man;
Therefore, his final doom is to endure
a never-ending torment.*

*O all ye old men, and also ye young men and you little
children which can understand my words, for I have
spoken plain unto you that ye might understand,
I pray that ye should awake to a remembrance of the awful
situation of those that have fallen into transgression.
And moreover, I would desire that ye should consider
on the blessed and happy state of those
that keep the commandments of God,
For behold, they are blessed in all things,
both temporal and spiritual;
And if they hold out faithful to the end, they are received
into heaven, that thereby they may dwell with God
in a state of never-ending happiness.*

*O remember, remember that these things are true,
for the Lord God hath spoken it!*

*And again my brethren, I would call your attention,
for I have somewhat more to speak unto you,*

*For behold, I have things to tell you
concerning that which is to come;
And the things which I shall tell you are made known
unto me by an angel from God;
And he said unto me, Awake! and I awoke,
And behold, he stood before me.
And he said unto me:
Awake and hear the words which I shall tell thee,
For behold, I am come to declare unto thee
glad tidings of great joy!
For the Lord hath heard thy prayers
and hath judged of thy righteousness,
And hath sent me to declare unto thee that thou mayest
rejoice and that thou mayest declare unto thy people,
that they may also be filled with joy.
For behold, the time cometh and is not far distant,
that with power the Lord Omnipotent who reigneth,
which was and is from all eternity to all eternity,
Shall come down from heaven among the children of men,
And shall dwell in a tabernacle of clay,
And shall go forth amongst men,
Working mighty miracles, such as –
healing the sick,
raising the dead,
causing the lame to walk,
the blind to receive their sight,
and the deaf to hear,
and curing all manner of diseases;
And He shall cast out devils, or the evil spirits,
which dwelleth in the hearts of the children of men.
And lo, He shall suffer temptations and pain of body,
hunger, thirst and fatigue, even more than man
can suffer, except it be unto death;
For behold, blood cometh from every pore, so great
shall be His anguish for the wickedness
and the abominations of His people.
And He shall be called Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
the Father of heaven and of earth, the Creator
of all things from the beginning;
And His mother shall be called Mary;*

*And lo, He cometh unto His own that salvation
might come unto the children of men,
even through faith on His name.
And even after all this, they shall consider Him
as a man and say that He hath a devil,
And shall scourge Him and shall crucify Him,
And He shall rise the third day from the dead;
And behold, He standeth to judge the world.
And behold, all these things are done that a righteous
judgment might come upon the children of men.
For behold, and also His blood atoneth for the sins of
those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam,
who hath died not knowing the will of God concerning
them and who have ignorantly sinned.
But wo, wo unto him who knoweth
that he rebelleth against God!
For salvation cometh to none such, except it be through
repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ.
And the Lord God hath sent His holy prophets among
all the children of men to declare these things
to every kindred, nation and tongue,
That thereby whosoever should believe that Christ should
come, the same might receive remission of their sins
and rejoice with exceeding great joy, even as though
He had already come among them...*

From: Mosiah 2:1-39

*And now it came to pass that when King Benjamin
had made an end of speaking the words which had
been delivered unto him by the angel of the Lord,
that he cast his eyes round about on the multitude;
And behold, they had fallen to the earth, for the fear
of the Lord had come upon them,
And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state
even less than the dust of the earth;
And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying:
O have mercy and apply the atoning blood of Christ,
that we may receive forgiveness of our
sins and our hearts may be purified!
For we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,*

*who created heaven and earth and all things,
Who shall come down among the children of men.
And it came to pass that after they had spoken these
words, the Spirit of the Lord came upon them,
And they were filled with joy,
having received a remission of their sins and having
peace of conscience because of the exceeding faith
which they had in Jesus Christ which should come,
according to the words which King Benjamin had
spoken unto them.
And King Benjamin again opened his mouth and began
to speak unto them, saying:
My friends and my brethren, my kindred and my people,
I would again call your attention that ye may hear
and understand the remainder of my words
which I shall speak unto you.
For behold, that if the knowledge of the goodness of God
at this time hath awakened you to a sense of your
nothingness and your worthlessness and fallen state,
I say unto you, that if ye have come to a knowledge
of the goodness of God and His matchless power
and His wisdom and His patience and His longsuffering
toward the children of men,
And also the atonement which hath been prepared from
the foundation of the world, that thereby salvation
might come to him that should put his trust in the Lord,
And should be diligent in keeping His commandments
and continue in the faith, even unto the end of his life –
I mean the life of the mortal body –
I say that this is the man that receiveth salvation through
the atonement which was prepared from the foundation
of the world for all mankind,
Which ever was, ever since the fall of Adam, or which is
or which ever shall be, even unto the end of the world.
And there is none other salvation save this
which hath been spoken of;
Neither are there any conditions whereby man can be
saved, except the conditions which I have told you:
Believe in God;
Believe that He is and that He created all things,*

*both in heaven and in earth;
Believe that He hath all wisdom and all power,
both in heaven and in earth;
Believe that man doth not comprehend all the things
which the Lord can comprehend.
And again, believe that ye must repent of your sins
and forsake them,
And humble yourselves before God and ask in sincerity
of heart that He would forgive you;
And now if you believe all these things,
see that ye do them!
And again, I say unto you as I have said before, that as
ye have come to the knowledge of the glory of God,
Or if ye have known of His goodness and have tasted of
His love and have received a remission of your sins,
which causeth such exceeding great joy in your souls,
Even so, I would that ye should remember and always
retain in remembrance the greatness of God and your
own nothingness and His goodness and longsuffering
toward you unworthy creatures;
And humble yourselves, even in the depths of humility,
calling on the name of the Lord daily,
And standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to
come which was spoken by the mouth of the angel.
And behold, I say unto you that if ye do this, ye shall
always rejoice and be filled with the love of God
and always retain a remission of your sins;
And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of Him
that created you, or in the knowledge of that
which is just and true.
And ye will not have a mind to injure one another,
but to live peaceably and to render to every man
according to that which is his due.
And ye will not suffer your children,
that they go hungry or naked;
Neither will ye suffer that they transgress the laws of God
and fight and quarrel one with another and serve the
devil which is the master of sin – or which is the evil
spirit which hath been spoken of by our fathers,
he being an enemy to all righteousness –*

*But ye will teach them to walk in the ways
of truth and soberness;
Ye will teach them to love one another
and to serve one another.
And also, ye yourselves will succor those
that stand in need of your succor;
Ye will administer of your substance unto him
that standeth in need;
And ye will not suffer that the beggar putteth up his
petition to you in vain and turn him out to perish.
Perhaps thou shalt say, The man hath brought upon
himself his misery, therefore I will stay my hand
and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart
unto him of my substance that he may not suffer,
for his punishments are just;
But I say unto you O man, whosoever doeth this,
the same hath great cause to repent;
And except he repenteth of that which he hath done,
he perisheth forever and hath no interest
in the kingdom of God.
For behold, are we not all beggars?
Do we not all depend upon the same Being, even God,
for all the substance which we have?
For both food and raiment and for gold and for silver
and for all the riches which we have of every kind?
And behold, even at this time ye have been calling on
His name and begging for a remission of your sins;
And hath He suffered that ye have begged in vain?
Nay, He hath poured out His Spirit upon you,
And hath caused that your hearts should be filled with joy,
And hath caused that your mouths should be stopped,
that ye could not find utterance, so exceeding great
was your joy.
And now, if God who hath created you, on whom you
are dependent for your lives and for all that ye have
and are, doth grant unto you whatsoever ye ask
that is right, in faith believing that ye shall receive,
O then, how had ye ought to impart of the substance
that ye have one to another!
And if ye judge the man who putteth up his petition*

*to you for your substance, that he perish not,
and condemn him,
How much more just will be your condemnation for
withholding your substance which doth not belong
to you, but to God to whom also your life belongeth?
And yet ye put up no petition, or repenteth not
of the thing which thou hast done;
I say unto you, wo be unto that man!
for his substance shall perish with him.*

From: Mosiah 3:8-21

*And now, because of the covenant which ye have made,
ye shall be called the children of Christ,
His sons and His daughters;
For behold, this day He hath spiritually begotten you,
for ye say that your hearts are changed
through faith on His name;
Therefore, ye are born of Him and have
become His sons and His daughters.
And under this head ye are made free,
And there is no other head whereby ye can be made free;
There is no other name given whereby salvation cometh;
Therefore, I would that ye should take upon you
the name of Christ – all you that have entered into
the covenant with God – that ye should be obedient
unto the end of your lives.
And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this
shall be found at the right hand of God,
For he shall know the name by which he is called,
For he shall be called by the name of Christ.
And now it shall come to pass that whosoever
shall not take upon them the name of Christ
must be called by some other name;
Therefore, he findeth himself on the left hand of God.
And I would that ye should remember also
that this is the name that I said I should give
unto you that never should be blotted out,
except it be through transgression;
Therefore, take heed that ye do not transgress,
that the name be not blotted out of your hearts.*

*I say unto you, I would that ye should remember
to retain the name written always in your hearts,
that ye are not found on the left hand of God,
But that ye hear and know the voice by which ye shall be
called, and also the name by which He shall call you.
For how knoweth a man the master which he hath not
served and which is a stranger unto him and is far
from the thoughts and intents of his heart?
And again, doth a man take an ass which belongeth
to his neighbor and keep him?
I say unto you, Nay,
He will not even suffer that he shall feed among his flocks,
but will drive him away and cast him out;
I say unto you, that even so shall it be among you
if ye know not the name by which ye are called.
Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and
immovable, always abounding in good works,
That Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you His,
That you may be brought to heaven,
That ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life
through the wisdom and power and justice and mercy
of Him who created all things in heaven and in earth,
who is God above all. Amen.*

- **The Voice of Abinadi:**

From: Mosiah 8:1-14

*And it came to pass that after Abinadi had made an end
of these sayings, that he said unto them:
Have ye taught this people that they should observe to
do all these things, for to keep these commandments?
I say unto you, nay, for if ye had, the Lord would not
have caused me to come forth and to prophesy evil
concerning this people.
And now ye have said that salvation cometh
by the law of Moses;
I say unto you that it is expedient that ye should
keep the law of Moses as yet,
But I say unto you that the time shall come when it shall
no more be expedient to keep the law of Moses.*

*And moreover, I say unto you that salvation
doth not come by the law alone;
And were it not for the atonement which God Himself
shall make for the sins and iniquities of His people,
that they must unavoidably perish,
notwithstanding the law of Moses.
And now I say unto you that it was expedient
that there should be a law given to the children of Israel,
yea, even a very strict law,
For they were a stiff-necked people, quick to do iniquity
and slow to remember the Lord their God;
Therefore, there was a law given them, yea,
a law of performances and ordinances,
A law which they were to observe strictly from day to day
to keep them in remembrance of God and their duty
toward Him.
But behold, I say unto you that all these things
were types of things to come.
And now, did they understand the law?
I say unto you, nay, they did not all understand the law,
and this because of the hardness of their hearts,
For they understood not that there could not any man be
saved, except it were through the redemption of God.
For behold, did not Moses prophesy unto them
concerning the coming of the Messiah and that
God should redeem His people?
Yea, and even all the prophets which have prophesied
ever since the world began,
Have they not spoken more or less
concerning these things?
Have they not said that God Himself should come down
among the children of men and take upon Him
the form of man and go forth in mighty power
upon the face of the earth?
Yea, and have they not said also that He should bring to
pass the resurrection of the dead and that He, Himself,
should be oppressed and afflicted?*

From: Mosiah 8:70-91

And now it came to pass that after Abinadi had spoken

*these words, he stretched forth his hands and said:
The time shall come when all shall see the salvation
of the Lord;
When every nation, kindred, tongue and people
shall see eye to eye,
And shall confess before God that His judgments are just.
And then shall the wicked be cast out,
And they shall have cause to howl and weep
and wail and gnash their teeth,
And this because they would not hearken
unto the voice of the Lord;
Therefore, the Lord redeemeth them not,
for they are carnal and devilish;
And the devil hath power over them,
Yea, even that old serpent that did beguile our first
parents, which was the cause of their fall,
Which was the cause of all mankind becoming carnal,
sensual, devilish, knowing evil from good,
subjecting themselves to the devil;
Thus all mankind were lost;
And behold, they would have been endlessly lost
were it not that God redeemed His people
from their lost and fallen state.
But remember that he that persists in his own carnal
nature and goes on in the ways of sin and rebellion
against God,
He remaineth in his fallen state and the devil
hath all power over him;
Therefore, he is as though there was no redemption made,
being an enemy to God;
And also is the devil an enemy to God.
And now, if Christ had not come into the world, speaking
of things to come as though they had already come,
there could have been no redemption;
And if Christ had not risen from the dead, or have broken
the bands of death that the grave should have no victory
and that death should have no sting, there could have
been no resurrection.
But there is a resurrection;
Therefore, the grave hath no victory,*

*And the sting of death is swallowed up in Christ.
 He is the light and the life of the world;
 Yea, a light that is endless, that can never be darkened;
 Yea, and also a life which is endless, that there can be
 no more death.
 Even this mortal shall put on immortality,
 And this corruption shall put on incorruption and
 shall be brought to stand before the bar of God,
 To be judged of Him according to their works,
 whether they be good or whether they be evil.
 If they be good, to the resurrection of endless life
 and happiness;
 And if they be evil, to the resurrection
 of endless damnation,
 Being delivered up to the devil who hath subjected them,
 which is damnation,
 Having gone according to their own carnal wills
 and desires,
 Having never called upon the Lord while the arms
 of mercy were extended toward them;
 For the arms of mercy were extended toward them
 and they would not,
 They being warned of their iniquities and yet
 they would not depart from them,
 And they were commanded to repent and yet
 they would not repent.
 And now, had ye not ought to tremble
 and repent of your sins?
 And remember, only in and through Christ
 ye can be saved;
 Therefore, if ye teach the law of Moses, also teach that
 it is a shadow of those things which are to come;
 Teach them that redemption cometh through Christ the
 Lord, which is the Very Eternal Father. Amen.*

- **The Voice of Alma:**

From: Mosiah 9:33-67

*Now there was in Mormon a fountain of pure water,
 And Alma resorted thither, there being near the water*

*a thicket of small trees where he did hide himself
in the daytime from the searches of the king.
And it came to pass that as many as believed him
went thither to hear his words.
And it came to pass after many days there were a goodly
number gathered together to the Place of Mormon
to hear the words of Alma,
Yea, all were gathered together that believed on his word
to hear him;
And he did teach them and did preach unto them
repentance and redemption and faith on the Lord.
And it came to pass that he said unto them:
Behold, here are the Waters of Mormon –
for thus were they called –
And now 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,
Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that mourn,
Yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort,
And to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in
all things and in all places that ye may be in,
even until death,
That ye may be redeemed of God and be numbered
with those of the first resurrection,
that ye may have eternal life –
Now, I say unto you, if this be the desires of your hearts,
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?
And now when the people had heard these words,
they clapped their hands for joy and exclaimed:
This is the desires of our hearts!
And now it came to pass that Alma took Helam,
he being one of the first, and went and stood forth
in the water and cried, saying:
O Lord, pour out Thy Spirit upon Thy servant,
that he may do this work with holiness of heart!*

*And when he had said these words, the Spirit of the Lord was upon him and he said:
Helam, I baptize thee, having authority from the Almighty God, as a testimony that ye have entered into a covenant to serve Him until you are dead, as to the mortal body;
And may the Spirit of the Lord be poured out upon you, And may He grant unto you eternal life through the redemption of Christ which He hath prepared from the foundation of the world.
And after Alma had said these words, both Alma and Helam were buried in the water;
And they arose and came forth out of the water rejoicing, being filled with the Spirit.
And again, Alma took another and went forth a second time into the water and baptized him according to the first, only he did not bury himself again in the water.
And after this manner he did baptize everyone that went forth to the Place of Mormon, And they were in number about two hundred and four souls,
Yea, and they were baptized in the Waters of Mormon and were filled with the grace of God;
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.
And it came to pass that Alma, having authority from God, ordained priests – even one priest to every fifty of their number did he ordain –
To preach unto them and to teach them concerning the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.
And he commanded them that they should teach nothing save it were the things which he had taught and which had been spoken by the mouth of the holy prophets.
Yea, even he commanded them that they should preach nothing save it were repentance and faith on the Lord who hath redeemed His people.
And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another,*

*But that they should look forward with one eye,
having one faith and one baptism,
Having their hearts knit together in unity and in love
one toward another;
And thus he commanded them to preach;
And thus they became the children of God.
And he commanded them that they should observe
the Sabbath day and keep it holy,
And also every day they should give thanks
to the Lord their God.
And he also commanded them that the priests which
he had ordained should labor with their own hands
for their support;
And there was one day in every week that was set apart
that they should gather themselves together to teach
the people and to worship the Lord their God,
And also as often as it was in their power
to assemble themselves together;
And the priests were not to depend upon the people
for their support,
But for their labor they were to receive the grace of God,
that they might wax strong in the Spirit,
Having the knowledge of God, that they might teach
with power and authority from God.
And again, Alma commanded that the people
of the church should impart of their substance,
everyone according to that which he hath –
If he have more abundantly, he should impart
more abundantly,
And he that hath but little, but little should be required,
And to him that hath not, should be given;
And thus they should impart of their substance of their
own free will and good desires toward God,
And to those priests that stood in need, yea,
and to every needy, naked soul;
And this he said unto them, having been
commanded of God;
And they did walk uprightly before God, imparting
to one another both temporally and spiritually,
according to their needs and their wants.*

*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!*

- **The Voice of King Mosiah:**

From: Mosiah 13:16-27

*Now it is better that a man should be judged of God
than of man, for the judgments of God are always just,
But the judgments of man are not always just;
Therefore, if it were possible that ye could have just men
to be your kings which would establish the laws of God
and judge this people according to His commandments,
Yea, if ye could have men for your kings which would
do even as my father Benjamin did for this people,
I say unto you, if this could always be the case,
then it would be expedient that ye should
always have kings to rule over you.
And even I, myself, have labored with all the power
and faculties which I have possessed, to teach you
the commandments of God and to establish peace
throughout the land,
That there should be no wars, nor contentions,
no stealing, nor plundering,
nor murdering,
nor no manner of iniquity;
And whosoever hath committed iniquity, him
have I punished according to the crime which he
hath committed, according to the law which
hath been given to us by our fathers.
Now I say unto you that because all men are not just,
it is not expedient that ye should have a king
or kings to rule over you,
For behold, how much iniquity doth one wicked king*

cause to be committed!
Yea, and what great destruction!
Yea, remember King Noah, his wickedness
and his abominations,
And also the wickedness and abominations of his people.
Behold, what great destruction did come upon them,
And also because of their iniquities,
they were brought into bondage;
And were it not for the interposition of their all-wise
Creator, and this because of their sincere repentance,
they must unavoidably remain in bondage until now.
But behold, He did deliver them because
they did humble themselves before Him;
And because they cried mightily unto Him,
He did deliver them out of bondage;
And thus doth the Lord work with His power in all cases
among the children of men, extending the arm of mercy
toward them that put their trust in Him.

- **The Voice of Alma the Younger:**

From: Alma 3:1-40

Now it came to pass that Alma began to declare the
word of God unto the people, first in the Land of
Zarahemla and from thence throughout all the land;
And these are the words which he spake to the people
in the church which was established in the City of
Zarahemla, according to his own record, saying:
I, Alma, having been consecrated by my father Alma
to be a high priest over the church of God, he having
power and authority from God to do these things,
Behold, I say unto you that he began to establish a church
in the land which was in the borders of Nephi –
yea, the land was called the Land of Mormon –
Yea, and he did baptize his brethren
in the Waters of Mormon.
And behold I say unto you, they were delivered
out of the hands of the people of King Noah
by the mercy and power of God.
And behold, after that they were brought into bondage

*by the hands of the Lamanites in the wilderness,
 Yea, I say unto you, they were in captivity
 and again the Lord did deliver them
 out of bondage by the power of His word;
 And we were brought into this land and here we began to
 establish the church of God throughout this land also.
 And now behold I say unto you my brethren,
 you that belong to this church,
 Have you sufficiently retained in remembrance
 the captivity of your fathers?
 Yea, and have you sufficiently retained in remembrance
 His mercy and longsuffering toward them?
 And moreover, have ye sufficiently retained in remem-
 brance that He hath delivered their souls from hell?
 Behold, He changed their hearts,
 Yea, He awaked them out of a deep sleep
 and they awake unto God;
 Behold, they were in the midst of darkness,
 Nevertheless, their souls were illuminated
 by the light of the everlasting word;
 Yea, they were encircled about by the bands
 of death and the chains of hell,
 And an everlasting destruction did await them.
 And now I ask of you my brethren, were they destroyed?
 Behold I say unto you, nay, they were not.
 And again I ask, were the bands of death broken?
 And the chains of hell which encircled them about,
 were they loosed?
 I say unto you, yea, they were loosed,
 And their souls did expand and they
 did sing redeeming love;
 And I say unto you that they are saved.
 And now I ask of you, on what conditions
 are they saved?
 Yea, what grounds had they to hope for salvation?
 What is the cause of their being loosed from the bands
 of death, yea, and also the chains of hell?
 Behold, I can tell you;
 Did not my father Alma believe in the words
 which were delivered by the mouth of Abinadi?*

*And was he not a holy prophet?
 Did he not speak the word of God
 and my father Alma believed them?
 And according to his faith there was a mighty change
 wrought in his heart;
 Behold, I say unto you that this is all true.
 And behold, he preached the word unto your fathers,
 And a mighty change was also wrought in their hearts,
 And they humbled themselves and put their trust
 in the true and living God.
 And behold, they were faithful until the end,
 therefore, they were saved.
 And now behold, I ask of you my brethren of the church,
 Have ye spiritually been born of God?
 Have ye received His image in your own countenances?
 Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts?
 Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of Him
 who created you?
 Do you look forward with an eye of faith and
 view this mortal body raised in immortality?
 And this corruption raised in incorruption, to stand
 before God to be judged according to the deeds
 which hath been done in the mortal body?
 I say unto you, can you imagine to yourselves that ye hear
 the voice of the Lord saying unto you in that day:
 Come unto Me, ye blessed,
 For behold, your works have been the works
 of righteousness upon the face of the earth?
 Or do ye imagine to yourselves that ye can
 lie unto the Lord at that day and say:
 Lord, our works have been righteous works
 upon the face of the earth,
 And that He will save you?
 Or otherwise, can ye imagine yourselves brought before
 the tribunal of God with your souls filled with guilt
 and remorse, having a remembrance of all your guilt?
 Yea, a perfect remembrance of all your wickedness?
 Yea, a remembrance that ye have set at defiance
 the commandments of God?
 I say unto you, can ye look up to God at that day*

*with a pure heart and clean hands?
I say unto you, can you look up, having the image
of God engraven upon your countenances?
I say unto you, can ye think of being saved when you
have yielded yourselves to become subjects to the devil?
I say unto you, ye will know at that day
that ye cannot be saved,
For there can no man be saved
except his garments are washed white;
Yea, his garments must be purified until they are cleansed
from all stain through the blood of Him of whom
it hath been spoken by our fathers which should
come to redeem His people from their sins.*

From: Alma 3:71-91

*And now my brethren, I say unto you, I would that ye
should hear me, for I speak in the energy of my soul;
For behold, I have spoken unto you plain
that ye cannot err, or have spoken
according to the commandments of God,
For I am called to speak after this manner, according
to the holy order of God which is in Christ Jesus;
Yea, I am commanded to stand and testify unto this people
the things which have been spoken by our fathers
concerning the things which are to come.
And this is not all –
Do ye suppose that I know not of these things myself?
Behold, I testify unto you that I do know that these things
whereof I have spoken are true.
And how do ye suppose that I know of their surety?
Behold I say unto you, they are made known unto me
by the Holy Spirit of God.
Behold, I have fasted and prayed many days
that I might know these things of myself,
And now I do know of myself that they are true;
For the Lord God hath made them manifest unto me
by His Holy Spirit,
And this is the spirit of revelation which is in me.
And moreover I say unto you, that as it has thus been
revealed unto me that the words which have been*

*spoken by our fathers are true,
 Even so, according to the spirit of prophecy which is in me,
 which is also by the manifestation of the Spirit of God,
 I say unto you that I know of myself
 that whatsoever I shall say unto you
 concerning that which is to come is true;
 And I say unto you that I know
 that Jesus Christ shall come,
 Yea, the Son of – the Only Begotten of – the Father,
 full of grace and mercy and truth.
 And behold, it is He that cometh
 to take away the sins of the world;
 Yea, the sins of every man which steadfastly
 believeth on His name.
 And now I say unto you, that this is the order
 after which I am called,
 Yea, to preach unto my beloved brethren,
 Yea, and everyone that dwelleth in the land;
 Yea, to preach unto all –
 both old and young,
 both bond and free;
 Yea, I say unto you –
 the aged and also the middle aged,
 and the rising generation –
 Yea, to cry unto them that they must repent
 and be born again.
 Yea, thus saith the Spirit:
 Repent all ye ends of the earth, for the
 kingdom of heaven is soon at hand!
 Yea, the Son of God cometh in His glory, in His might,
 majesty, power and dominion;
 Yea, my beloved brethren, I say unto you
 that the Spirit saith:
 Behold! The glory of the King of all the earth
 and also the King of heaven shall very soon
 shine forth among all the children of men!
 And also the Spirit saith unto me, yea,
 crieth unto me with a mighty voice, saying:
 Go forth and say unto this people, Repent!
 For except ye repent ye can in no wise*

*inherit the kingdom of heaven.
And again I say unto you, the Spirit saith:
Behold, the axe is laid at the root of the tree;
Therefore, every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit
shall be hewn down and cast into the fire,
Yea, a fire which cannot be consumed,
even an unquenchable fire.
Behold and remember the Holy One hath spoken it.*

From: Alma 4:1-10

*And now it came to pass that after Alma had made
an end of speaking unto the people of the church
which was established in the City of Zarahemla,
He ordained priests and elders by laying on his hands,
according to the order of God, to preside
and watch over the church.
And it came to pass that whomsoever did not belong to
the church who repented of their sins was baptized
unto repentance and was received into the church.
And it also came to pass that whomsoever did belong
to the church that did not repent of their wickedness
and humble themselves before God –
I mean those which were lifted up
in the pride of their hearts –
The same were rejected and their names were blotted out,
that their names were not numbered
among those of the righteous.
And thus they began to establish the order
of the church in the City of Zarahemla.
Now I would that ye should understand that the word
of God was liberal unto all, that no one was deprived
of the privilege of assembling themselves together
to hear the word of God;
Nevertheless, the children of God were commanded that
they should gather themselves together oft and join in
fasting and mighty prayer in behalf of the welfare
of the souls of those who knew not God.
And now it came to pass that when
Alma had made these regulations,
He departed from them, yea, from the church*

*which was in the City of Zarahemla,
and went over upon the east of the River Sidon
into the Valley of Gideon,
There having been a city built which was called the City of
Gideon, which was in the valley that was called Gideon,
being called after the man which was slain
by the hand of Nehor with the sword.
And Alma went and began to declare the word of God
unto the church which was established
in the Valley of Gideon,
According to the revelation of the truth of the word
which had been spoken by his fathers,
And according to the spirit of prophecy which was in him,
According to the testimony of Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
which should come for to redeem His people
from their sins,
And the holy order by which he was called.
And thus it is written. Amen.*

From: Alma 5:13-29

*For behold, I say unto you, there be many things to come;
And behold, there is one thing which is
of more importance than they all.
For behold, the time is not far distant that the Redeemer
liveth and cometh among His people.
Behold, I do not say that He will come among us at
the time of His dwelling in His mortal tabernacle,
For behold, the Spirit hath not said unto me
that this should be the case;
Now as to this thing, I do not know;
But this much I do know, that the Lord God hath power
to do all things which are according to His word.
But behold, the Spirit hath said this much unto me, saying:
Cry unto this people, saying:
Repent ye, repent ye! and prepare the way of the Lord,
And walk in His paths which are strait.
For behold, the kingdom of heaven is at hand and
the Son of God cometh upon the face of the earth.
And behold, He shall be born of Mary at Jerusalem,
which is the land of our forefathers,*

*She being a virgin, a precious and chosen vessel,
who shall be overshadowed and conceive
by the power of the Holy Ghost,
And bring forth a son, yea, even the Son of God.
And He shall go forth, suffering pains and afflictions
and temptations of every kind,
And this that the word might be fulfilled which saith
He will take upon Him the pains
and the sicknesses of His people;
And He will take upon Him death, that He may loose
the bands of death which bind His people;
And He will take upon Him their infirmities, that His
bowels may be filled with mercy, according to the flesh,
That He may know, according to the flesh, how to succor
His people according to their infirmities.
Now the Spirit knoweth all things;
Nevertheless, the Son of God suffereth,
according to the flesh,
That He might take upon Him the sins of His people,
That He might blot out their transgressions
according to the power of His deliverance.
And now behold, this is the testimony which is in me.
Now I say unto you, that ye must repent
and be born again,
For the Spirit saith:
If ye are not born again, ye cannot inherit
the kingdom of heaven.
Therefore, come and be baptized unto repentance,
that ye may be washed from your sins,
That ye may have faith on the Lamb of God which taketh
away the sins of the world, which is mighty to save
and to cleanse from all unrighteousness.
Yea, I say unto you, come and fear not,
And lay aside every sin which easily doth beset you,
which doth bind you down to destruction.
Yea, come and go forth and show unto your God
that ye are willing to repent of your sins
and enter into a covenant with Him
to keep His commandments,
And witness it unto Him this day by going*

*into the waters of baptism;
And whosoever doeth this and keepeth
the commandments of God from thenceforth,
The same will remember that I say unto him,
yea, he will remember that I have said unto him,
he shall have eternal life according to the testimony
of the Holy Spirit which testifieth in me.
And now my beloved brethren,
do you believe these things?*

From: Alma 9:62-73

*And again my brethren, I would cite your minds
forward to the time which the Lord God
gave these commandments unto His children;
And I would that ye should remember that the Lord God
ordained priests after His holy order which was after the
order of His Son, to teach these things unto the people;
And those priests were ordained after the order of His Son
in a manner that thereby the people might know in what
manner to look forward to His Son for redemption.
And this is the manner after which they were ordained,
being called and prepared from the foundation
of the world according to the foreknowledge of God,
On account of their exceeding faith and good works,
in the first place being left to choose good or evil –
Therefore they, having chosen good and exercising
exceeding great faith, are called with a holy calling,
Yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with,
and according to, a preparatory redemption for such,
And thus they having been called to this holy calling
on account of their faith –
While others would reject the Spirit of God
on account of the hardness of their hearts
and blindness of their minds,
While, if it had not been for this, they might have
had as great privilege as their brethren;
Or in fine, in the first place they were on the
same standing with their brethren –
Thus this holy calling being prepared from the foundation
of the world for such as would not harden their hearts,*

*Being in and through the atonement of the Only Begotten Son which was prepared;
And thus being called by this holy calling and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach His commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into His rest,
This high priesthood being after the order of His Son, which order was from the foundation of the world,
Or in other words, being without beginning of days or end of years, being prepared from eternity to all eternity according to His foreknowledge of all things –
Now they were ordained after this manner, being called with a holy calling and ordained with a holy ordinance,
And taking upon themselves the high priesthood of the holy order, which calling and ordinance and high priesthood is without beginning or end.
Thus they become high priests forever after the order of the Son of – the Only Begotten of – the Father, which is without beginning of days or end of years, which is full of grace, equity and truth.
And thus it is. Amen.*

From: Alma 10:1-30

*Now as I said concerning the holy order, or this high priesthood, there were many which were ordained and became high priests of God;
And it was on account of the exceeding faith and repentance and their righteousness before God, they choosing to repent and work righteousness rather than to perish,
Therefore, they were called after this holy order and were sanctified,
And their garments were washed white through the blood of the Lamb.
Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence.
And there were many, an exceeding great many, which were made pure and entered into the rest of the Lord their God.*

*And now my brethren, I would that ye should humble
yourselves before God and bring forth fruit meet
for repentance, that ye may also enter into that rest;
Yea, humble yourselves even as the people in the days
of Melchizedek, who was also a high priest after this
same order which I have spoken, who also took upon
him the high priesthood forever;
And it was this same Melchizedek to whom
Abraham paid tithes,
Yea, even our father Abraham paid tithes
of one tenth part of all he possessed.
Now these ordinances were given after this manner, that
thereby the people might look forward on the Son of
God, it being a type of His order, or it being His order;
And this that they might look forward to Him for a
remission of their sins, that they might
enter into the rest of the Lord.
Now this Melchizedek was a king over the Land of Salem;
And his people had waxed strong in iniquity and
abominations, yea, they had all gone astray –
they were full of all manner of wickedness;
But Melchizedek, having exercised mighty faith
and received the office of the high priesthood
according to the holy order of God,
did preach repentance unto his people,
And behold, they did repent;
And Melchizedek did establish peace
in the land in his days,
Therefore, he was called the prince of peace,
For he was the king of Salem and he did reign
under his father.
Now there were many before him and also there
were many afterward, but none were greater,
Therefore, of him they have more particularly
made mention;
Now I need not rehearse the matter;
What I have said may suffice;
Behold, the scriptures are before you;
If ye will wrest them, it shall be to your own destruction.
And now it came to pass that when Alma had said these*

*words unto them, he stretched forth his hand unto them
and cried with a mighty voice, saying:
Now is the time to repent!
for the day of salvation draweth nigh.
Yea, and the voice of the Lord, by the mouth of angels,
doth declare it unto all nations,
Yea, doth declare it, that they may have glad tidings
of great joy.
Yea, and He doth sound these glad tidings among
all His people, yea, even to them that are
scattered abroad upon the face of the earth;
Wherefore, they have come unto us
and they are made known unto us in plain terms
that we may understand, that we cannot err,
And this because of our being wanderers in a strange land;
Therefore, we are thus highly favored, for we have
these glad tidings declared unto us
in all parts of our vineyard.
For behold, angels are declaring it unto many
at this time in our land,
And this is for the purpose of preparing the hearts
of the children of men for to receive His word
at the time of His coming in His glory.
And now we only wait to hear the joyful news –
declared unto us by the mouth of angels of His coming,
for the time cometh, we know not how soon;
Would to God that it might be in my day,
but let it be sooner or later, in it I will rejoice.
And it shall be made known unto just and holy men
by the mouth of angels at the time of His coming,
That the words of our fathers might be fulfilled according
to that which they have spoken concerning Him,
which was according to the spirit of prophecy
which was in them.
And now my brethren, I wish from the inmost part
of my heart, yea, with great anxiety even unto pain,
That ye would hearken unto my words and cast off your
sins and not procrastinate the day of your repentance;
But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord and
call on His holy name and watch and pray continually,*

*That ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear;
And thus be led by the Holy Spirit,
becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient,
full of love and all longsuffering,
having faith on the Lord,
having a hope that ye shall receive eternal life,
having the love of God always in your hearts,
That ye may be lifted up at the last day
and enter into His rest.
And may the Lord grant unto you repentance,
That ye may not bring down His wrath upon you,
That ye may not be bound down by the chains of hell,
That ye may not suffer the second death.*

From: Alma 16:136-173

*And now as I said unto you that because ye
were compelled to be humble, ye were blessed,
Do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who
truly humble themselves because of the word?
Yea, he that truly humbleth himself and repenteth of his
sins and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed,
Yea, much more blessed than they who art compelled
to be humble because of their exceeding poverty;
Therefore, blessed are they who humbleth themselves
without being compelled to be humble,
Or rather, in other words,
Blessed is he that believeth in the word of God
and is baptized without stubbornness of heart,
Yea, without being brought to know the word, or
even compelled to know, before they will believe.
Yea, there are many which do say, If thou wilt
show unto us a sign from heaven, then we
shall know of a surety, then we shall believe.
Now I ask, is this faith?
Behold, I say unto you, Nay,
For if a man knoweth a thing, he hath
no cause to believe, for he knoweth it.
And now how much more cursed is he that knoweth
the will of God and doeth it not, than he that only
believeth, or only hath cause to believe,*

*and falleth into transgression?
Now of this thing ye must judge.
Behold, I say unto you that it is on the one hand
even as it is on the other,
And it shall be unto every man according to his work.
And now as I said concerning faith,
Faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things;
Therefore, if ye have faith, ye hope for things
which are not seen, which are true.
And now behold I say unto you, and I would
that ye should remember that God is merciful
unto all who believe on His name;
Therefore, He desireth in the first place that ye
should believe, yea, even on His word.
And now, He imparteth His word by angels unto men –
yea, not only men, but women also;
Now this is not all –
Little children doth have words given unto them many
times which doth confound the wise and the learned.
And now my beloved brethren, as ye have desired
to know of me what ye shall do because
ye are afflicted and cast out –
Now I do not desire that ye should suppose that I mean
to judge you only according to that which is true,
For I do not mean that ye – all of you – have been
compelled to humble yourselves,
For I verily believe there are some among you which
would humble themselves, let them be
in whatsoever circumstances he might –
Now as I said concerning faith – that it was not
a perfect knowledge – even so it is with my words;
Ye cannot know of their surety at first, unto perfection,
any more than faith is a perfect knowledge.
But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties,
even to an experiment upon my words,
and exercise a particle of faith,
Yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe,
let this desire work in you,
Even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place
for a portion of my words.*

*Now, we will compare the word unto a seed.
 Now, if ye give place that a seed
 may be planted in your heart,
 Behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed –
 if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief
 that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord –
 Behold, it will begin to swell within your breasts;
 And when you feel these swelling motions,
 ye will begin to say within yourselves:
 It must needs be that this is a good seed, or that the
 word is good, for it beginneth to enlarge my soul,
 Yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding,
 Yea, and it beginneth to be delicious to me.
 Now behold, would not this increase your faith?
 I say unto you, Yea;
 Nevertheless, it hath not grown up to a perfect knowledge.
 But behold, as the seed swelleth and sprouteth
 and beginneth to grow –
 And then ye must needs say that the seed is good,
 For behold, it swelleth and sprouteth
 and beginneth to grow –
 And now behold, will not this strengthen your faith?
 Yea, it will strengthen your faith,
 For ye will say, I know that this is a good seed,
 For behold, it sprouteth and beginneth to grow.
 And now behold, are ye sure that this is a good seed?
 I say unto you, yea, for every seed bringeth forth
 unto its own likeness;
 Therefore, if a seed groweth, it is good,
 But if it groweth not, behold, it is not good,
 Therefore, it is cast away.
 And now, behold, because ye have tried the experiment
 and planted the seed and it swelleth
 and sprouteth and beginneth to grow,
 Ye must needs know that the seed is good.
 And now behold, is your knowledge perfect?
 Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing
 and your faith is dormant;
 And this because you know, for ye know
 that the word hath swelled your souls,*

*And ye also know that it hath sprouted up, that
your understanding doth begin to be enlightened
and your mind doth begin to expand.
O then, is not this real?
I say unto you, yea, because it is light,
And whatsoever is light is good, because it is discernible;
Therefore, ye must know that it is good.
And now behold, after ye have tasted this light,
is your knowledge perfect?
Behold, I say unto you, Nay;
Neither must ye lay aside your faith,
For ye have only exercised your faith to plant the seed,
that ye might try the experiment
to know if the seed were good.
And behold, as the tree beginneth to grow, ye will say:
Let us nourish it with great care, that it may get root,
that it may grow up and bring forth fruit unto us.
And now behold, if ye nourish it with much care,
it will get root and grow up and bring forth fruit;
But if ye neglect the tree and take no thought
for its nourishment,
Behold, it will not get any root;
And when the heat of the sun cometh and scorcheth it,
and because it hath no root, it withereth away,
And ye pluck it up and cast it out.
Now this is not because the seed was not good,
Neither is it because the fruit thereof
would not be desirable;
But it is because your ground is barren
and ye will not nourish the tree;
Therefore, ye cannot have the fruit thereof.
And thus it is if ye will not nourish the word, looking
forward with an eye of faith to the fruit thereof,
Ye can never pluck of the fruit of the tree of life;
But if ye will nourish the word –
Yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow,
by your faith with great diligence and with patience –
looking forward to the fruit thereof,
And it shall take root;
And behold, it shall be a tree springing up*

*unto everlasting life!
And because of your diligence and your faith
and your patience with the word in nourishing it,
that it may take root in you,
Behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof,
which is most precious,
which is sweet above all that is sweet,
and which is white above all that is white,
yea, and pure above all that is pure,
And ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled
that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst;
Then my brethren, ye shall reap the rewards of your faith
and your diligence and patience and longsuffering,
waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you.*

- **The Voices of Anti-Nephi-Lehi:**

From: Alma 14:29-41

*Now these are the words which he said unto the people
concerning the matter:
I thank my God, my beloved people, that our great God
has in goodness sent these our brethren, the Nephites,
unto us to preach unto us and to convince us
of the traditions of our wicked fathers.
And behold, I thank my great God that He has given us
a portion of His Spirit to soften our hearts,
that we have opened a correspondence
with these brethren, the Nephites.
And behold, I also thank my God that by opening
this correspondence,
We have been convinced of our sins and of the
many murders which we have committed.
And I also thank my God, yea, my great God,
that He hath granted unto us that we might
repent of these things,
And also that He hath forgiven us of these our many sins
and murders which we have committed,
And took away the guilt from our hearts
through the merits of His Son.
And now behold, my brethren, since it has been all that*

*we could do – as we were the most lost of all mankind –
to repent of all our sins and the many murders
which we have committed and to get God
to take them away from our hearts –
For it was all we could do to repent sufficiently
before God that He would take away our stain –
Now, my best beloved brethren, since God hath taken
away our stains and our swords have become bright,
then let us stain our swords no more
with the blood of our brethren.
Behold, I say unto you, Nay;
Let us retain our swords, that they be not stained
with the blood of our brethren,
For perhaps if we should stain our swords again,
They can no more be washed bright through the blood
of the Son of our great God which shall be shed
for the atonement of our sins.
And the great God has had mercy on us and made these
things known unto us, that we might not perish;
Yea, and He hath made these things known unto us
beforehand because He loveth our souls, as well as
He loveth our children;
Therefore, in His mercy He doth visit us by His angels,
that the plan of salvation might be made known
unto us, as well as unto future generations;
O how merciful is our God!
And now behold, since it has been as much as we could
do to get our stains taken away from us
and our swords are made bright,
Let us hide them away, that they may be kept bright as a
testimony to our God at the last day – or at the day that
we shall be brought to stand before Him to be judged –
that we have not stained our swords in the blood
of our brethren since He imparted His word
unto us and has made us clean thereby.
And now my brethren, if our brethren seek to destroy us,
behold, we will hide away our swords,
Yea, even we will bury them deep in the earth,
that they may be kept bright as a testimony
that we have never used them, at the last day;*

*And if our brethren destroy us, behold, we shall
go to our God and shall be saved.*

- **The Voices of the Sons of Mosiah:**

From: Alma 12:1-20

*And now it came to pass that as Alma was journeying
from the Land of Gideon southward,
away to the Land of Manti,
Behold, to his astonishment, he met the sons of Mosiah
a journeying toward the Land of Zarahemla.
Now these sons of Mosiah were with Alma at the time
the angel first appeared unto him, therefore,
Alma did rejoice exceedingly to see his brethren;
And what added more to his joy, they were still his
brethren in the Lord, yea, and they had waxed strong
in the knowledge of the truth,
For they were men of a sound understanding
and they had searched the scriptures diligently,
that they might know the word of God.
But this is not all –
They had given themselves to much prayer and fasting,
Therefore, they had the spirit of prophecy
and the spirit of revelation,
And when they taught, they taught with power and au-
thority, even as with the power and authority of God.
And they had been teaching the word of God
for the space of fourteen years among the Lamanites,
having had much success in bringing many
to the knowledge of the truth;
Yea, by the power of their words many were brought
before the altar of God to call on His name
and confess their sins before Him.
Now these are the circumstances which attended them
in their journeyings, for they had many afflictions –
They did suffer much, both in body and in mind,
such as hunger, thirst and fatigue,
And also much labor in the spirit.
Now these were their journeyings,
Having taken leave of their father Mosiah*

*in the first year of the reign of the judges,
Having refused the kingdom which their father
was desirous to confer upon them, and also
this was the minds of the people;
Nevertheless, they departed out of the Land of Zarahemla
and took their swords and their spears and their bows
and their arrows and their slings;
And this they did that they might provide food
for themselves while in the wilderness;
And thus they departed into the wilderness with their
numbers which they had selected, to go up
to the Land of Nephi to preach the word of God
unto the Lamanites.
And it came to pass that they journeyed many days
in the wilderness;
And they fasted much and prayed much, that the Lord
would grant unto them a portion of His Spirit
to go with them and abide with them,
That they might be an instrument in the hands of God
to bring, if it were possible, their brethren the Lamanites
to the knowledge of the truth,
To the knowledge of the baseness of the traditions
of their fathers, which were not correct.
And it came to pass that the Lord did visit them
with His Spirit and said unto them:
Be comforted;
And they were comforted.
And the Lord said unto them also:
Go forth among the Lamanites, thy brethren,
and establish My word;
Yet ye shall be patient in longsuffering and afflictions, that
ye may show forth good examples unto them in Me,
And I will make an instrument of thee in My hands
unto the salvation of many souls.
And it came to pass that the hearts of the sons of Mosiah,
and also those which were with them, took courage
to go forth unto the Lamanites to declare unto them
the word of God.*

- **The Voice of Ammon:**

From: Alma 12:99-122

*Now Ammon being wise, yet harmless,
he saith unto Lamoni:
Wilt thou hearken unto my words if I tell thee
by what power I do these things?
And this is the thing that I desire of thee.
And the king answered him and said:
Yea, I will believe all thy words;
And thus he was caught with guile.
And Ammon began to speak unto him
with boldness and said unto him:
Believest thou that there is a God?
And he answered and said unto him:
I do not know what that meaneth.
And then Ammon saith:
Believest thou that there is a Great Spirit?
And he saith:
Yea.
And Ammon saith:
This is God.
And Ammon saith unto him again:
Believest thou that this Great Spirit, which is God,
created all things which are in heaven and in the earth?
And he saith:
Yea, I believe that He created all things which are
in the earth, but I do not know the heavens.
And Ammon saith unto him:
The heavens is a place where God dwells
and all His holy angels.
And King Lamoni saith:
Is it above the earth?
And Ammon saith:
Yea, and He looketh down upon all the children of men;
And He knows all the thoughts and intents of the heart,
for by His hand were they all created
from the beginning.
And King Lamoni saith:
I believe all these things which thou hast spoken;*

*Art thou sent from God?
 Ammon saith unto him:
 I am a man,
 And man in the beginning was created
 after the image of God;
 And I am called by His Holy Spirit to teach these things
 unto this people, that they may be brought
 to a knowledge of that which is just and true;
 And a portion of that Spirit dwelleth in me which giveth
 me knowledge, and also power, according to my faith
 and desires which are in God.
 Now when Ammon had said these words, he began to the
 creation of the world, and also to the creation of Adam,
 And told him all the things concerning the fall of man;
 And rehearsed and laid before him the records and the
 holy scriptures of the people, and which had been
 spoken by the prophets, even down to the time
 that their father Lehi left Jerusalem.
 And he also rehearsed unto them – for it was unto the king
 and to his servants – all the journeyings of their fathers in the wilderness,
 And all their sufferings with hunger and thirst
 and their travail, etc.
 And he also rehearsed unto them concerning the rebellions
 of Laman and Lemuel and the sons of Ishmael,
 Yea, all their rebellions did he relate unto them.
 And he expounded unto them all the records and scriptures
 from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem
 down to the present time.
 But this is not all –
 For he expounded unto them the plan of redemption
 which was prepared from the foundation of the world;
 And he also made known unto them
 concerning the coming of Christ;
 And all the works of the Lord did he make known
 unto them.
 And it came to pass that after he had said all these things
 and expounded them to the king,
 that the king believed all his words.
 And he began to cry unto the Lord, saying:
 O Lord, have mercy!*

*According to Thy abundant mercy, which Thou hast had
upon the people of Nephi, have upon me
and my people!*

From: Alma 14:92-104

*Yea, I know that I am nothing;
As to my strength, I am weak;
Therefore, I will not boast of myself,
but I will boast of my God,
For in His strength I can do all things.
Yea, behold how many mighty miracles we have wrought in
this land, for which we will praise His name forever!
Behold how many thousands of our brethren
hath He loosed from the pains of hell
and they are brought to sing redeeming love!
And this because of the power of His word which is in us,
Therefore, have we not great reason to rejoice?
Yea, we have reason to praise Him forever!
For He is the Most High God and has loosed our brethren
from the chains of hell;
Yea, they were encircled about with everlasting darkness
and destruction,
But behold, He hath brought them into His everlasting
light, yea, into everlasting salvation,
And they are encircled about with the matchless bounty
of His love.
Yea, and we have been instruments in His hands
of doing this great and bmarvelous work,
Therefore, let us glory – yea, we will glory in the Lord!
Yea, we will rejoice, for our joy is full!
Yea, we will praise our God forever!
Behold, who can glory too much in the Lord?
Yea, who can say too much of His great power
and of His mercy and of His longsuffering
toward the children of men?
Behold I say unto you, I cannot say
the smallest part which I feel.
Who could have supposed that our God would have
been so merciful as to have snatched us
from our awful sinful and polluted state?*

*Behold, we went forth, even in wrath, with mighty
 threatenings, to destroy His church;
 O then, why did He not consign us
 to an awful destruction?
 Yea, why did He not let the sword of His justice
 fall upon us and doom us to eternal despair?
 O my soul almost, as it were, fleeth at the thought!
 Behold, He did not exercise His justice upon us,
 But in His great mercy hath brought us over
 that everlasting gulf of death and misery,
 even to the salvation of our souls.
 And now behold, my brethren, what natural man
 is there that knoweth these things?
 I say unto you, there is none that knoweth these things,
 save it be the penitent –
 Yea, he that repenteth,
 and exerciseth faith,
 and bringeth forth good works,
 and prayeth continually without ceasing,
 Unto such it is given to know the mysteries of God;
 Yea, unto such it shall be given to reveal things
 which never have been revealed;
 Yea, and it shall be given unto such
 to bring thousands of souls to repentance,
 Even as it hath been given unto us
 to bring these our brethren to repentance.*

- **The Voice of Amulek:**

From: Alma 16:201-241

*And now it came to pass that after Alma had spoken these
 words unto them, he sat down upon the ground,
 And Amulek arose and began to teach them, saying:
 My brethren, I think that it is impossible that ye should
 be ignorant of the things which have been spoken
 concerning the coming of Christ, who is taught
 by us to be the Son of God;
 Yea, I know that these things were taught unto you
 bountifully before your dissension from among us,
 And as ye have desired of my beloved brother*

*that he should make known unto you what ye
should do because of your afflictions –
And he hath spoken somewhat unto you
to prepare your minds,
Yea, and he hath exhorted you unto faith and to patience,
Yea, even that ye would have so much faith as even
to plant the word in your hearts, that ye may
try the experiment of its goodness.
And we have beheld that the great question which is in
your minds is whether the word be in the Son of God,
or whether there shall be no Christ.
And ye also beheld that my brother hath proven
unto you in many instances that the word
is in Christ unto salvation;
My brother hath called upon the words of Zenos
that redemption cometh through the Son of God,
And also upon the words of Zenoch,
And also he hath appealed unto Moses
to prove that these things are true.
And now behold, I will testify unto you of myself
that these things are true;
Behold, I say unto you that I do know that Christ
shall come among the children of men to take
upon Him the transgressions of His people,
And that He shall atone for the sins of the world,
For the Lord God hath spoken it.
For it is expedient that an atonement should be made;
For according to the great plans of the Eternal God,
there must be an atonement made, or else
all mankind must unavoidably perish –
Yea, all are hardened,
Yea, all are fallen and are lost and must perish,
except it be through the atonement
which it is expedient should be made.
For it is expedient that there should be
a great and last sacrifice,
Yea, not a sacrifice of man,
neither of beast,
neither of any manner of fowl,
For it shall not be a human sacrifice,*

*But it must be an infinite and an eternal sacrifice.
 Now there is not any man that can sacrifice his own
 blood, which will atone for the sins of another.
 Now if a man murdereth, behold, will our law,
 which is just, take the life of his brother?
 I say unto you, Nay,
 But the law requireth the life of him who hath murdered;
 Therefore, there is nothing which is short of an infinite
 atonement which will suffice for the sins of the world,
 Therefore, it is expedient that there
 should be a great and last sacrifice.
 And then shall there be, or it is expedient there
 should be, a stop to the shedding of blood,
 Then shall the law of Moses be fulfilled,
 Yea, it shall all be fulfilled, every jot and tittle,
 And none shall have passed away.
 And behold, this is the whole meaning of the law,
 every whit a pointing to that great and last sacrifice,
 And that great and last sacrifice will be the Son of God,
 yea, infinite and eternal.
 And thus He shall bring salvation to all those
 who shall believe on His name,
 This being the intent of this last sacrifice:
 To bring about the bowels of mercy,
 which overpowereth justice,
 And bringeth about means unto men
 that they may have faith unto repentance.
 And thus mercy can satisfy the demands of justice
 and encircles them in the arms of safety,
 While he that exerciseth no faith unto repentance is
 exposed to the whole law of the demands of justice;
 Therefore, only unto him that hath faith unto repentance is
 brought about the great and eternal plan of redemption.
 Therefore, may God grant unto you, my brethren, that
 ye might begin to exercise your faith unto repentance,
 That ye begin to call upon His holy name
 that He would have mercy upon you;
 Yea, cry unto Him for mercy, for He is mighty to save;
 Yea, humble yourselves and continue in prayer unto Him –
 Cry unto Him when ye are in your fields,*

yea, over all your flocks;
Cry unto Him in your houses, yea, over all your household,
both morning, midday and evening;
Yea, cry unto Him against the power of your enemies;
Yea, cry unto Him against the devil
which is an enemy to all righteousness;
Cry unto Him over the crops of your fields
that ye may prosper in them;
Cry over the flocks of your fields that they may increase.
But this is not all –
Ye must pour out your souls in your closets
and your secret places and in your wilderness;
Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord,
Let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto Him
continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare
of those that are around you.
And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you,
do not suppose that this is all,
For after ye have done all these things,
If ye turn away the needy and the naked, and visit not
the sick and afflicted and impart of your substance,
if ye have, to those which stand in need –
I say unto you, if ye do not any of these things,
Behold, your prayer is vain and availeth you nothing,
And ye are as hypocrites which do deny the faith;
Therefore, if ye do not remember to be charitable,
Ye are as dross which the refiners do cast out – it being
of no worth – and is trodden underfoot of men.
And now my brethren, I would that after ye have
received so many witnesses – seeing that the holy
scripture testifies of these things – come forth
and bring fruit unto repentance!
Yea, I would that ye would come forth
and harden not your hearts any longer;
For behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation;
And therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts,
Immediately shall the great plan of redemption
be brought about unto you;
For behold, this life is the time for men
to prepare to meet God;

*Yea, behold, the day of this life is the day
for men to perform their labors.
And now, as I said unto you before,
as ye have had so many witnesses,
Therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate
the day of your repentance until the end;
For after this day of life, which is given us
to prepare for eternity,
Behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life,
then cometh the night of darkness wherein
there can be no labor performed.
Ye cannot say when ye are brought to that awful crisis
that I will repent, that I will return to my God;
Nay, ye cannot say this,
For that same spirit which doth possess your bodies
at the time that ye go out of this life,
That same spirit will have power to possess your body
in that eternal world.
For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day
of your repentance, even until death,
Behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil,
And he doth seal you his;
Therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you
and hath no place in you,
And the devil hath all power over you;
And this is the final state of the wicked.
And this I know because the Lord hath said
He dwelleth not in unholy temples,
But in the hearts of the righteous doth He dwell;
Yea, and He hath also said that the righteous should
sit down in His kingdom to go no more out,
But their garments should be made white
through the blood of the Lamb.
And now my beloved brethren, I desire
that ye should remember these things,
And that ye should work out your salvation
with fear before God,
And that ye should no more deny the coming of Christ,
That ye contend no more against the Holy Ghost,
But that ye receive it and take upon you*

*the name of Christ,
 That ye humble yourselves even to the dust
 and worship God in whatsoever place
 ye may be in, in spirit and in truth,
 And that ye live in thanksgiving daily for the many mercies
 and blessings which He doth bestow upon you.
 Yea, and I also exhort you, my brethren,
 that ye be watchful unto prayer continually,
 That ye may not be led away
 by the temptations of the devil,
 That he may not overpower you,
 That ye may not become his subjects at the last day;
 For behold, he rewardeth you no good thing.
 And now my beloved brethren, I would exhort you
 to have patience and that ye bear
 with all manner of afflictions,
 That ye do not revile against those who do cast you out
 because of your exceeding poverty,
 lest ye become sinners like unto them,
 But that ye have patience and bear with those afflictions,
 with a firm hope that ye shall one day
 rest from all your afflictions.
 Now it came to pass that after Amulek
 had made an end of these words,
 They withdrew themselves from the multitude
 and came over into the Land of Jershon;
 Yea, and the rest of the brethren, after they had
 preached the word unto the Zoramites,
 also came over into the Land of Jershon.*

- **The Voice of Chief Captain Moroni:**

From: Alma 20:62-73

*And Moroni said unto Zerahemnah:
 Behold, Zerahemnah, that we do not desire
 to be men of blood;
 Ye know that ye are in our hands,
 yet we do not desire to slay you.
 Behold, we have not come out to battle against you,
 that we might shed your blood for power,*

*Neither do we desire to bring anyone
to the yoke of bondage;
But this is the very cause for which
ye have come against us,
Yea, and ye are angry with us because of our religion.
But now, ye behold that the Lord is with us,
And ye behold that He hath delivered you into our hands.
And now I would that ye should understand
that this is done unto us because of our religion
and our faith in Christ.
And now ye see that ye cannot destroy this our faith;
Now ye see that this is the true faith of God,
Yea, ye see that God will support and keep and
preserve us, so long as we are faithful unto Him
and unto our faith and our religion;
And never will the Lord suffer that we shall be destroyed,
except we should fall into transgression
and deny our faith.
And now, Zerahemnah, I command you in the name
of that all-powerful God who hath strengthened
our arms that we have gained power over you –
By our faith,
By our religion,
And by our rights of worship,
And by our church,
And by the sacred support which we owe
to our wives and our children,
By that liberty which binds us
to our lands and our country,
Yea, and also by the maintenance of the sacred word
of God to which we owe all our happiness,
And by all that is most dear unto us;
Yea, and this is not all –
I command you by all the desires which ye have for life
that ye deliver up your weapons of war unto us,
And we will seek not your blood, but we will spare
your lives if ye will go your way and come not again
to war against us.
And now if ye do not this, behold, ye are in our hands,
And I will command my men that they shall fall upon you*

*and inflict the wounds of death in your bodies,
that ye may become extinct;
And then we will see who shall have power
over this people,
Yea, we will see who shall be brought into bondage.*

From: Alma 21:135-143

*Now the Nephites were taught to defend themselves
against their enemies, even to the shedding
of blood if it were necessary;
Yea, and they were also taught never to give an offense,
Yea, and never to raise the sword, except it were against
an enemy, except it were to preserve their lives.
And this was their faith –
That by so doing, God would prosper them in the land,
Or in other words, if they were faithful in keeping
the commandments of God, that He would
prosper them in the land,
Yea, warn them to flee or to prepare for war,
according to their danger,
And also that God would make it known unto them
whither they should go to defend themselves
against their enemies,
And by so doing the Lord would deliver them.
And this was the faith of Moroni,
And his heart did glory in it –
Not in the shedding of blood, but in doing good –
in preserving his people,
yea, in keeping the commandments of God,
yea, and resisting iniquity.
Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, if all men had been
and were and ever would be like unto Moroni,
Behold, the very powers of hell
would have been shaken forever,
Yea, the devil would never have any power
over the hearts of the children of men;
Behold, he was a man like unto Ammon,
the son of Mosiah,
Yea, and even the other sons of Mosiah,
Yea, and also Alma and his sons,*

*for they were all men of God.
Now behold, Helaman and his brethren were no less
serviceable unto the people than was Moroni,
For they did preach the word of God,
And they did baptize unto repentance all men
whosoever would hearken unto their words.
And thus they went forth;
And the people did humble themselves
because of their words, insomuch
that they were highly favored of the Lord.*

- **The Voices of the Sons of Alma the Younger:**

From: Alma 20:1,2

*And now it came to pass that the sons of Alma
did go forth among the people
to declare the word unto them;
And Alma also, himself, could not rest
and he also went forth.
Now, we shall say no more concerning their preaching,
except that they preached the word and the truth
according to the spirit of prophecy and revelation,
And they preached after the holy order of God
by which they were called.*

From: Alma 21:72-74

*And they began to have peace again in the land.
And thus they did maintain peace in the land, until nearly
the end of the nineteenth year of the reign of the judges;
And Helaman and the high priests did also maintain order
in the church,
Yea, even for the space of four years did they have
much peace and rejoicing in the church.
And it came to pass that there were many who died,
firmly believing that their souls were redeemed
by the Lord Jesus Christ;
Thus they went out of the world rejoicing.*

From: Alma 21:185-186

*And thus ended the nineteenth year of the reign
of the judges over the people of Nephi;*

*Yea, and there was continual peace among them
and exceeding great prosperity in the church
because of their heed and diligence which
they gave unto the word of God,
Which was declared unto them by Helaman and Shiblon
and Coreanton and Ammon and his brethren, etc.,
Yea, and by all those which had been ordained
by the holy order of God,
Being baptized unto repentance and sent forth
to preach among the people, etc.*

From: Alma 29:55-63

*Therefore, Helaman and his brethren went forth
and did declare the word of God with much power,
Unto the convincing of many people of their wickedness,
which did cause them to repent of their sins
and to be baptized unto the Lord their God.
And it came to pass that they did establish again the
church of God throughout all the land;
Yea, and regulations were made concerning the law;
And their judges and their chief judges were chosen;
And the people of Nephi began
to prosper again in the land,
And began to multiply and to wax
exceeding strong again in the land;
And they began to grow exceeding rich.
But notwithstanding their riches or their strength
or their prosperity, they were not lifted up
in the pride of their eyes;
Neither were they slow to remember the Lord their God,
But they did humble themselves exceedingly before Him;
Yea, they did remember how great things
the Lord had done for them –
That He had delivered them from death,
and from bonds and from prisons,
and from all manner of afflictions;
And He had delivered them out of the hands
of their enemies –
And they did pray unto the Lord their God continually,
insomuch that the Lord did bless them*

*according to His word,
So that they did wax strong and prosper in the land.
And it came to pass that all these things were done.
And Helaman died in the thirty and fifth year
of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.*

- **The Voice of Helaman, the Sons of Helaman:**

From: Helaman 2:17-26,33

*And it came to pass that there was
still great contentions in the land,
Yea, even in the forty and seventh year,
And also in the forty and eighth year.
Nevertheless, Helaman did fill the judgment seat
with justice and equity;
Yea, he did observe to keep the statutes and the
judgments and the commandments of God;
And he did do that which was right
in the sight of God continually;
And he did walk after the ways of his father,
insomuch that he did prosper in the land.
And it came to pass that he had two sons –
He gave unto the eldest the name of Nephi,
and unto the youngest the name of Lehi;
And they began to grow up unto the Lord.
And it came to pass that the wars and contentions
began to cease, in a small degree,
among the people of the Nephites,
In the latter end of the forty and eighth year
of the reign of the judges over the people of Nephi.
And it came to pass in the forty and ninth year
of the reign of the judges, there was continual peace
established in the land –
All, save it were the secret combinations which
Gaddianton the robber had established
in the more settled parts of the land,
Which at that time were not known unto those
which were at the head of government;
Therefore, they were not destroyed out of the land.
And it came to pass that in this same year, there*

*was exceeding great prosperity in the church,
 Insomuch that there were thousands who did join themselves unto the church
 and were baptized
 unto repentance;
 And so great was the prosperity of the church,
 And so many the blessings which were
 poured out upon the people,
 That even the high priests and the teachers
 were themselves astonished beyond measure.
 And it came to pass that the work of the Lord did prosper,
 unto the baptizing and the uniting to the church of God
 many souls, yea, even tens of thousands.
 Thus we may see that the Lord is merciful
 unto all who will, in the sincerity of their hearts,
 call upon His holy name.
 Yea, thus we see that the gate of heaven is open unto all,
 even to those who will believe on the name
 of Jesus Christ, which is the Son of God.
 Yea, we see that whosoever will lay hold upon
 the word of God, which is quick and powerful,
 Which shall divide asunder all the cunning
 and the snares and the wiles of the devil,
 And lead the man of Christ in a strait and narrow
 course across that everlasting gulf of misery
 which is prepared to engulf the wicked,
 And land their souls, yea, their immortal souls,
 at the right hand of God in the kingdom of heaven,
 To sit down with Abraham and Isaac and with Jacob
 and with all our holy fathers to go no more out.
 ...
 And it came to pass in the fifty and third year
 of the reign of the judges,
 Helaman died and his eldest son Nephi
 began to reign in his stead.*

From: Helaman 2:66-81

*And it came to pass that Nephi had become weary
 because of their iniquity,
 And he yielded up the judgment seat and took it upon him
 to preach the word of God all the remainder of his days,*

*And his brother Lehi also, all the remainder of his days;
For they remembered the words which
their father Helaman spake unto them.
And these are the words which he spake:
Behold, my sons, I desire that ye should remember
to keep the commandments of God;
And I would that ye should declare
unto the people these words.
Behold, I have given unto you the names of our first
parents which came out of the Land of Jerusalem;
And this I have done that when you remember your names,
that ye may remember them;
And when ye remember them, ye may remember
their works;
And when ye remember their works, ye may know how
that it is said, and also written, that they were good.
Therefore, my sons,
I would that ye should do that which is good,
that it may be said of you, and also written,
Even as it has been said and written of them.
And now my sons, behold, I have
somewhat more to desire of you,
Which desire is that ye may not do these things
that ye may boast,
But that ye may do these things to lay up
for yourselves a treasure in heaven,
Yea, which is eternal and which fadeth not away;
Yea, that ye may have that precious gift
of eternal life, which ye have reason to suppose
hath been given to our fathers.
O remember, remember, my sons, the words
which King Benjamin spake unto his people;
Yea, remember that there is no other way nor means
whereby man can be saved,
Only through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ,
which shall come;
Yea, remember that He cometh to redeem the world.
And remember also the words which Amulek
spake unto Zeezrom in the City of Ammonihah;
For he said unto him that the Lord surely should come*

*to redeem His people;
But that He should not come to redeem them in their sins,
But to redeem them from their sins;
And He hath power given unto Him from the Father
to redeem them from their sins because of repentance;
Therefore, He hath sent His angels to declare
the tidings of the conditions of repentance,
Which bringeth unto the power of the Redeemer,
unto the salvation of their souls.
And now my sons, remember, remember that it is
upon the Rock of our Redeemer, which is Christ,
the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation;
That when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds,
yea, his shafts in the whirlwind,
Yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm
shall beat upon you,
It shall have no power over you to drag you down
to the gulf of misery and endless wo,
Because of the Rock upon which ye are built,
which is a sure foundation, a foundation
whereon if men buildeth, they cannot fall.
And it came to pass that these were the words
which Helaman taught to his sons;
Yea, he did teach them many things which are not written,
and also many things which are written.
And they did remember his words;
And therefore, they went forth – keeping the
commandments of God – to teach the word of God
among all the people of Nephi,
Beginning at the City Bountiful,
and from thenceforth to the City of Gid,
and from the City of Gid to the City of Mulek;
And even from one city to another until they had
gone forth among all the people of Nephi
which were in the Land Southward;
And from thence into the Land of Zarahemla,
among the Lamanites.
And it came to pass that they did preach with great power,
Insomuch that they did confound many of those dissenters
which had gone over from the Nephites,*

*Insomuch that they came forth and did confess their sins
and were baptized unto repentance,
And immediately returned to the Nephites to endeavor
to repair unto them the wrongs which they had done.
And it came to pass that Nephi and Lehi did preach unto
the Lamanites with such great power and authority –
For they had power and authority given unto them
that they might speak,
And they also had what they should speak
given unto them –
Therefore, they did speak unto the great astonishment
of the Lamanites to the convincing them,
Insomuch that there were eight thousand of the
Lamanites which were in the Land of Zarahemla
and round about baptized unto repentance,
And were convinced of the wickedness
of the traditions of their fathers.*

- **The Voice of Nephi, the Son of Helaman:**

From: Helaman 3:12-31

*And it came to pass that there were certain men
passing by and saw Nephi as he was a pouring out
his soul unto God upon the tower;
And they ran and told the people what they had seen;
And the people came together in multitudes
that they might know the cause of so great
mourning for the wickedness of the people.
And now when Nephi arose, he beheld the multitudes
of people which had gathered together.
And it came to pass that he opened his mouth
and said unto them:
Behold, why have ye gathered yourselves together?
That I may tell you of your iniquities?
Yea, because I have got upon my tower, that I might pour
out my soul unto my God because of the exceeding
sorrow of my heart, which is because of your iniquities,
And because of my mourning and lamentation,
Ye have gathered yourselves together and do marvel;
Yea, and ye have great need to marvel;*

*Yea, ye had ought to marvel because ye are given away,
 that the devil hath got so great hold upon your hearts;
 Yea, how could ye have given away to the enticing of him
 who art seeking to hurl away your souls down
 to everlasting misery and endless wo?
 O repent ye! repent ye!
 Why will ye die?
 Turn ye! turn ye unto the Lord your God!
 Why hath He forsaken you?
 It is because you have hardened your hearts;
 Yea, ye will not hearken unto the voice
 of the Good Shepherd;
 Yea, ye have provoked Him to anger against you;
 And behold, instead of gathering you,
 except ye will repent,
 Behold, He shall scatter you forth, that ye shall
 become meat for dogs and wild beasts.
 O how could you have forgotten your God
 in the very day that He hath delivered you?
 But behold, it is to get gain – to be praised of men –
 yea, and that ye might get gold and silver;
 And ye have set your hearts upon the riches
 and the vain things of this world,
 For the which ye do murder and plunder and steal
 and bear false witness against your neighbor
 and do all manner of iniquity;
 And for this cause, wo shall come unto you,
 except ye shall repent!
 For if ye will not repent,
 Behold, this great city, and also all those great cities
 which are round about, which are in the land
 of our possession, shall be taken away,
 that ye shall have no place in them,
 For behold, the Lord will not grant unto you strength,
 as He hath hitherto done, to withstand
 against your enemies.
 For behold, thus saith the Lord:
 I will not show unto the wicked of My strength,
 to one more than the other,
 Save it be unto those who repenteth of their sins*

*and hearken unto My words.
Now therefore, I would that ye should behold,
my brethren, that it shall be better for the Lamanites
than for you, except ye shall repent;
For behold, they are more righteous than you,
For they have not sinned against that great knowledge
which ye have received;
Therefore, the Lord will be merciful unto them;
Yea, He will lengthen out their days
and increase their seed,
Even when thou shalt be utterly destroyed,
except thou shalt repent.
Yea, wo be unto you because of that great
abomination which hath come among you!
And ye have united yourselves unto it, yea, to that secret
band which was established by Gaddianton.
Yea, wo shall come unto you because of that pride
which ye have suffered to enter your hearts,
Which hath lifted you up beyond that which is good
because of your exceeding great riches.
Yea, wo be unto you because of your
wickedness and abominations!
And except ye repent, ye shall perish!
Yea, even your lands shall be taken from you and ye
shall be destroyed from off the face of the earth.
Behold, now I do not say that these things
shall be of myself,
Because it is not of myself that I know these things;
But behold, I know that these things are true because
the Lord God hath made them known unto me;
Therefore, I testify that they shall be.*

From: Helaman 3:113-131

*And it came to pass that Nephi went his way
toward his own house, pondering upon the things
which the Lord had shown unto him.
And it came to pass as he was thus pondering –
Being much cast down because of the wickedness
of the people of the Nephites, their secret works
of darkness and their murderings and their plunderings*

and all manner of iniquities –
And it came to pass as he was thus pondering in his heart,
Behold, a voice came unto him, saying:
Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things
which thou hast done;
For I have beheld how thou hast with unwearyingness
declared the word which I have given
unto thee unto this people;
And thou hast not feared them and
hast not sought thine own life,
But hath sought My will and to keep My commandments.
And now because thou hast done this
with such unwearyingness,
Behold, I will bless thee forever;
And I will make thee mighty in word and in deed,
in faith and in works;
Yea, even that all things shall be done
unto thee according to thy word,
For thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to My will.
Behold, thou art Nephi and I Am God.
Behold, I declare it unto thee in the presence
of Mine angels,
That ye shall have power over this people and shall smite
the earth with famine and with pestilence and destruc-
tion, according to the wickedness of this people.
Behold, I give unto you power that whatsoever
ye shall seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven,
And whatsoever ye shall loose on earth
shall be loosed in heaven;
And thus shall ye have power among this people.
And thus, if ye shall say unto this temple,
It shall be rent in twain –
And it shall be done.
And if ye shall asay unto this mountain,
Be thou cast down and become smooth! –
And it shall be done.
And behold, if ye shall say that God shall
smite this people, it shall come to pass.
And now behold, I command you that ye shall
go and declare unto this people that,

*Thus saith the Lord God, who is the Almighty,
Except ye repent, ye shall be smitten,
even unto destruction!
And behold, now it came to pass that when the Lord
had spoken these words unto Nephi, he did stop
and did not go unto his own house,
But did return unto the multitudes which were
scattered about upon the face of the land,
And began to declare unto them the word of the Lord
which had been spoken unto him concerning
their destruction, if they did not repent.
Now behold, notwithstanding that great miracle
which Nephi had done in telling them
concerning the death of the chief judge,
They did harden their hearts and did not hearken
unto the words of the Lord.
Therefore, Nephi did declare unto them
the word of the Lord, saying:
Except ye repent, thus saith the Lord,
Ye shall be smitten, even unto destruction!
And it came to pass that when Nephi
had declared unto them the word,
Behold, they did still harden their hearts
and would not hearken unto his words;
Therefore, they did revile against him and
did seek to lay their hands upon him,
that they might cast him into prison.
But behold, the power of God was with him and they
could not take him to cast him into prison,
For he was taken by the Spirit and conveyed
away out of the midst of them.
And it came to pass that thus he did go forth in the Spirit
from multitude to multitude, declaring the word of God,
Even until he had declared it unto them all,
or sent it forth among all the people.
And it came to pass that they would
not hearken unto his words;
And there began to be contentions, insomuch
that they were divided against themselves
and began to slay one another with the sword.*

*And thus ended the seventy and first year of the reign
of the judges over the people of Nephi.*

From: Helaman 4:1-25

*And thus, in the seventy and fourth year
the famine did continue,
And the work of destruction did cease by the sword,
but became sore by famine.
And this work of destruction did also continue
in the seventy and fifth year;
For the earth was smitten that it was dry and did
not yield forth grain in the season of grain;
And the whole earth was smitten, even among
the Lamanites, as well as among the Nephites,
So that they were smitten that they did perish by
thousands in the more wicked parts of the land.
And it came to pass that the people saw that
they were about to perish by famine,
And they began to remember the Lord their God;
And they began to remember the words of Nephi.
And the people began to plead with their chief judges
and their leaders, that they would say unto Nephi:
Behold, we know that thou art a man of God;
And therefore, cry unto the Lord our God that He turn
away from us this famine, lest all the words which thou
hast spoken concerning our destruction be fulfilled.
And it came to pass that the judges did say unto Nephi
according to the words which had been desired.
And it came to pass that when Nephi saw that the people
had repented and did humble themselves in sackcloth,
He cried again unto the Lord, saying:
O Lord, behold, this people repenteth;
And they have swept away the band of Gaddianton
from amongst them,
Insomuch that they have become extinct and they
have concealed their secret plans in the earth.
Now, O Lord, because of this, their humility,
wilt Thou turn away Thine anger,
And let Thine anger be appeased in the destruction of
those wicked men whom Thou hast already destroyed?*

*O Lord, wilt Thou turn away Thine anger –
 yea, Thy fierce anger –
 And cause that this famine may cease in this land?
 O Lord, wilt Thou hearken unto me and cause
 that it may be done according to my words,
 And send forth rain upon the face of the earth,
 that she may bring forth her fruit and her grain
 in the season of grain?
 O Lord, Thou didst hearken unto my words when I said,
 Let there be a famine that the pestilence
 of the sword might cease;
 And I know that Thou wilt, even at this time,
 hearken unto my words,
 For Thou saidst that if this people repent,
 I will spare them.
 Yea, O Lord,
 And Thou seest that they have repented because
 of the famine and the pestilence and destruction
 which have come unto them.
 And now, O Lord, wilt Thou turn away Thine
 anger and try again if they will serve Thee?
 And if so, O Lord, Thou canst bless them
 according to Thy words which Thou hast said.
 And it came to pass that in the seventy and sixth year,
 the Lord did turn away His anger from the people
 and caused that rain should fall upon the earth,
 Insomuch that it did bring forth her fruit
 in the season of her fruit.
 And it came to pass that it did bring forth
 her grain in the season of her grain.
 And behold, the people did rejoice and glorify God,
 And the whole face of the land was filled with rejoicing;
 And they did no more seek to destroy Nephi,
 But they did esteem him as a great prophet
 and a man of God, having great power
 and authority given unto him from God;
 And behold, Lehi his brother was not a whit behind him
 as to things pertaining to righteousness.
 And thus it did come to pass that the people of Nephi
 began to prosper again in the land,*

*And began to build up their waste places,
And began to multiply and spread,
Even until they did cover the whole face of the land –
both on the northward and on the southward,
from the Sea West to the Sea East.
And it came to pass that the seventy and sixth year
did end in peace.*

- **The Voice of Samuel the Lamanite:**

From: Helaman 5:1-101

*And now it came to pass in the eighty and sixth year,
the Nephites did still remain in wickedness –
yea, in great wickedness –
While the Lamanites did observe strictly to keep the
commandments of God according to the law of Moses.
And it came to pass that in this year there was one, Samuel,
a Lamanite, came into the Land of Zarahemla
and began to preach unto the people.
And it came to pass that he did preach many days
repentance unto the people,
And they did cast him out;
And he was about to return to his own land,
But behold, the voice of the Lord came unto him that he
should return again and prophesy unto the people
whatsoever things should come into his heart.
And it came to pass that they would not suffer
that he should enter into the city;
Therefore, he went and got upon the wall thereof
and stretched forth his hand,
And cried with a loud voice and prophesied unto the
people whatsoever things the Lord put into his heart.
And he said unto them:
Behold, I, Samuel, a Lamanite, do speak the words
of the Lord which He doth put into my heart;
And behold, He hath put it into my heart
to say unto this people that the sword of justice
hangeth over this people;
And four hundred years passeth not away save
the sword of justice falleth upon this people –*

*Yea, heavy destruction awaiteth this people;
And it surely cometh unto this people
and nothing can save this people,
Save it be repentance and faith on the Lord Jesus Christ
which surely shall come into the world and shall suffer
many things and shall be slain for His people.
And behold, an angel of the Lord
hath declared it unto me,
And he did bring glad tidings to my soul;
And behold, I was sent unto you to declare it unto
you also, that ye might have glad tidings;
But behold, ye would not receive me.
Therefore, thus saith the Lord:
Because of the hardness of the hearts of the people
of the Nephites, except they repent I will
take away My word from them,
And I will withdraw My Spirit from them,
And I will suffer them no longer,
And I will turn the hearts of their brethren against them.
And four hundred years shall not pass away
before I will cause that they shall be smitten –
Yea, I will visit them with the sword and with
famine and with pestilence,
Yea, I will visit them in My fierce anger;
And there shall be those of the fourth generation
which shall live of your enemies
to behold your utter destruction;
And this shall surely come except ye repent,
saith the Lord,
And those of the fourth generation
shall visit your destruction.
But if ye will repent and return unto the Lord your God,
I will turn away Mine anger, saith the Lord;
Yea, thus saith the Lord, blessed are they
who will repent and turn unto Me.
But wo unto him that repenteth not!
Yea, wo unto this great City of Zarahemla!
For behold, it is because of they which are righteous
that it is saved;
Yea, wo unto this great city!*

*For I perceive, saith the Lord, that there are many,
yea, even the more part of this great city that will
harden their hearts against Me, saith the Lord;
But blessed are they who will repent, for them will I spare.
But behold, if it were not for the righteous
which are in this great city,
Behold, I would cause that fire should come down
out of heaven and destroy it;
But behold, it is for the righteous sake that it is spared.
But behold, the time cometh, saith the Lord, that when
ye shall cast out the righteous from among you,
Then shall ye be ripe for destruction;
Yea, wo be unto this great city because of the
wickedness and abominations which are in her!
Yea, and wo be unto the City of Gideon for the
wickedness and abominations which are in her!
Yea, and wo be unto all the cities which are in the land
round about, which are possessed by the Nephites,
because of the wickedness and abominations
which are in them!
And behold, a curse shall come upon the land, saith
the Lord of Hosts, because of the people's sake –
Which is upon the land, yea, because of their
wickedness and their abominations.
And it shall come to pass, saith the Lord of Hosts,
yea, our great and true God,
That whoso shall hide up treasures in the earth
shall find them again no more because of the great
curse of the land, save it be a righteous man
and shall hide it up unto the Lord;
For I will, saith the Lord, that they shall
hide up their treasures unto Me;
And cursed be they who hideth not up
their treasures unto Me;
For none hideth up their treasures unto Me
save it be the righteous;
And he that hideth not up his treasure unto Me,
cursed is he, and also the treasure,
And none shall redeem it because of the curse of the land.
And the day shall come that they shall hide up their*

*treasures because they have set their hearts upon riches;
 And because they have set their hearts upon their riches
 and will hide up their treasures when they shall flee
 before their enemies –
 Because they will not hide them up unto Me –
 cursed be they, and also their treasures;
 And in that day shall they be smitten, saith the Lord.
 Behold ye, the people of this great city,
 and hearken unto my words;
 Yea, hearken unto the words which the Lord saith;
 For behold, He saith that ye are cursed
 because of your riches,
 And also are your riches cursed because ye have set
 your hearts upon them and hath not hearkened
 unto the words of Him who gave them unto you.
 Ye do not remember the Lord your God
 in the things which He hath blessed you,
 But ye do always remember your riches –
 not to thank the Lord your God for them –
 Yea, your heart is not drawn out unto the Lord,
 But they do swell with great pride unto boasting and unto
 great swelling, envyings, strifes, malice, persecutions
 and murders and all manner of iniquities;
 For this cause hath the Lord God caused that a curse
 should come upon the land, and also upon your riches;
 And this because of your iniquities.
 Yea, wo unto this people because
 of this time which has arrived,
 That ye do cast out the prophets and do mock them
 and cast stones at them and do slay them
 and do do all manner of iniquity unto them,
 even as they did of old time!
 And now when ye talk, ye say,
 If our days had been in the days of our fathers of old,
 We would not have slain the prophets;
 We would not have stoned them and cast them out.
 Behold, ye are worse than they;
 For as the Lord liveth, if a prophet come among you
 and declareth unto you the word of the Lord
 which testifieth of your sins and iniquities,*

*Ye are angry with him and cast him out and
seek all manner of ways to destroy him;
Yea, you will say that he is a false prophet and
that he is a sinner and of the devil because
he testifieth that your deeds are evil.
But behold, if a man shall come among you
and shall say, Do this and there is no iniquity,
do that and ye shall not suffer –
Yea, he will say, Walk after the pride of your own hearts,
yea, walk after the pride of your eyes
and do whatsoever your heart desireth –
And if a man shall come among you and say this,
Ye will receive him and ye will say that he is a prophet;
Yea, ye will lift him up and ye will give
unto him of your substance –
Ye will give unto him of your gold and of your silver,
And ye will clothe him with costly apparel –
And because he speaketh flattering words unto you
and he saith that all is well,
And then ye will not find any fault with him.*

*O ye wicked and ye perverse generation!
Ye hardened and ye stiff-necked people!
How long will ye suppose that the Lord will suffer you?
Yea, how long will ye suffer yourselves to be led
by foolish and blind guides?
Yea, how long will ye choose darkness rather than light?
Yea, behold, the anger of the Lord
is already kindled against you!
Behold, He hath cursed the land because of your iniquity;
And behold, the time cometh that He curseth your riches;
that it becometh slippery, that ye cannot hold them;
And in the days of your poverty, ye cannot retain them;
And in the days of your poverty, ye shall cry unto the Lord;
And in vain shall ye cry,
For your desolation is already come upon you,
And your destruction is made sure.
And then shall ye weep and howl in that day,
saith the Lord of Hosts.
And then shall ye lament, and say:*

*O that I had repented and had not killed the prophets
and stoned them and cast them out!
Yea, in that day shall ye say:
O that we had remembered the Lord our God
in the day that He gave us our riches!
And then they would not have become slippery,
that we should lose them.
For behold, our riches are gone from us –
Behold, we layeth a tool here and
on the morrow it is gone;
And behold, our swords are taken from us
in the day we have sought them for battle;
Yea, we have hid up our treasures and they have slipped
away from us because of the curse of the land.
O that we had repented in the day that
the word of the Lord came unto us!
For behold, the land is cursed,
And all things are become slippery,
And we cannot hold them.
Behold, we are surrounded by demons,
Yea, we are encircled about by the angels of him
who hath sought to destroy our souls;
Behold, our iniquities are great!
O Lord, canst Thou not turn away Thine anger from us?
And this shall be your language in those days.
But behold, your days of probation are past;
Ye have procrastinated the day of your salvation until it is
everlastingly too late and your destruction is made sure;
Yea, for ye have sought all the days of your lives
for that which ye could not obtain;
And ye have sought for happiness in doing iniquity,
Which thing is contrary to the nature of that righteousness
which is in our great and Eternal Head.
O ye people of the land, that ye would hear my words!
And I pray that the anger of the Lord
be turned away from you!
And that ye would repent and be saved!
And now it came to pass that Samuel the Lamanite
did prophesy a great many more things
which cannot be written.*

*And behold, he saith unto them:
Behold, I give unto you a sign –
For five years more cometh,
And behold, then cometh the Son of God to redeem
 all those who shall believe on His name;
And behold, this will I give unto you for a sign
 at the time of His coming –
For behold, there shall be great lights in heaven,
Insomuch that in the night before He cometh,
 there shall be no darkness,
Insomuch that it shall appear unto man as if it was day;
Therefore, there shall be one day and a night and a day,
 as if it were one day and there were no night.
And this shall be unto you for a sign, for ye shall know
 of the rising of the sun, and also of its setting;
Therefore, they shall know of a surety
 that there shall be two days and a night;
Nevertheless, the night shall not be darkened;
And it shall be the night before He is born.
And behold, there shall be a new star arise,
 such an one as ye never have beheld;
And this also shall be a sign unto you.
And behold this is not all –
There shall be many signs and wonders in heaven;
And it shall come to pass that ye shall
 all be amazed and wonder,
Insomuch that ye shall fall to the earth.
And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall believe
 on the Son of God, the same shall have everlasting life.
And behold, thus hath the Lord commanded me, by His
 angel, that I should come and tell this thing unto you;
Yea, He hath commanded that I should prophesy
 these things unto you;
Yea, He hath said unto me, Cry unto this people,
Repent and prepare the way of the Lord!
And now because I am a Lamanite and hath spoken unto
 you the words which the Lord hath commanded me,
And because it was hard against you,
Ye are angry with me and do seek to destroy me
 and have cast me out from among you.*

*And ye shall hear my words!
For, for this intent I have come up upon the walls
of this city,
That ye might hear and know of the judgments of God
which doth await you because of your iniquities;
And also that ye might know the conditions of repentance;
And also that ye might know of the coming of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God, the Father of heaven and of earth,
the Creator of all things from the beginning;
And that ye might know of the signs of His coming,
to the intent that ye might believe on His name;
And if ye believe on His name, ye will repent
of all your sins, that thereby ye may have
remission of them through His merits.
And behold, again, another sign I give unto you –
yea, a sign of His death –
For behold, He surely must die that salvation may come;
Yea, it behooveth Him and becometh expedient that He
dieth to bring to pass the resurrection of the dead,
That thereby men may be brought into the presence
of the Lord;
Yea, behold, this death bringeth to pass
the resurrection and redeemeth all mankind
from the first death – that spiritual death,
For all mankind – by the fall of Adam, being cut off
from the presence of the Lord – are considered as dead,
both as to things temporal and to things spiritual.
But behold, the resurrection of Christ redeemeth
mankind – yea, even all mankind – and bringeth
them back into the presence of the Lord;
Yea, and it bringeth to pass the conditions of repentance,
That whosoever repenteth, the same is not hewn down
and cast into the fire;
But whosoever repenteth not is hewn down
and cast into the fire,
And there cometh upon them again a spiritual death,
yea, a second death,
For they are cut off again as to things
pertaining to righteousness.
Therefore, repent ye, repent ye!*

*Lest by knowing these things and not doing them,
ye shall suffer yourselves to come under condemnation
and ye are brought down unto this second death.
But behold, as I said unto you concerning another sign –
a sign of His death –
Behold, in that day that He shall suffer death,
the sun shall be darkened and refuse to give her
light unto you, and also the moon and the stars;
And there shall be no light upon the face of the land,
even from the time that He shall suffer death,
for the space of three days, to the time
that He shall rise again from the dead.
Yea, at the time that He shall yield up the ghost,
There shall be thunderings and lightnings
for the space of many hours;
And the earth shall shake and tremble;
And the rocks which are upon the face of the earth –
which are both above the earth and beneath,
which ye know at this time is solid, or the more
part of it is one solid mass – shall be broken up;
Yea, they shall be rent in twain and shall ever after
be found in seams and in cracks and in broken
fragments upon the face of the whole earth,
Yea, both above the earth and both beneath.
And behold, there shall be great tempests,
And there shall be many mountains laid low,
like unto a valley,
And there shall be many places which are now
called valleys which shall become mountains,
whose height thereof is great;
And many highways shall be broken up,
And many cities shall become desolate,
And many graves shall be opened and
shall yield up many of their dead;
And many saints shall appear unto many.
And behold, thus hath the angel spoken unto me;
For he said unto me that there should be thunderings
and lightnings for the space of many hours;
And he said unto me that while the thunder
and the lightning lasted and the tempest,*

*that these things should be,
And that darkness should cover the face of the
whole earth for the space of three days.
And the angel said unto me that many
shall see greater things than these,
To the intent that they might believe that these
signs and these wonders should come to pass
upon all the face of this land;
To the intent that there should be no cause
for unbelief among the children of men;
And this to the intent that whosoever
will believe, might be saved,
And that whosoever will not believe,
a righteous judgment might come upon them;
And also, if they are condemned, they bring
upon themselves their own condemnation.
And now remember, remember, my brethren,
That whosoever perisheth, perisheth unto himself;
And whosoever doeth iniquity, doeth it unto himself;
For behold, ye are free – ye are permitted
to act for yourselves;
For behold, God hath given unto you a knowledge
and He hath made you free –
He hath given unto you that ye might
know good from evil,
And He hath given unto you that ye might
choose life or death;
And ye can do good and be restored
unto that which is good,
Or have that which is good restored unto you;
Or ye can do evil and have that which is evil
restored unto you.
And now my beloved brethren,
Behold, I declare unto you that except ye shall repent,
your houses shall be left unto you desolate;
Yea, except ye repent, your women shall have great cause
to mourn in the day that they shall give suck;
For ye shall attempt to flee and there
shall be no place for refuge.
Yea, and wo unto them which are with child!*

*for they shall be heavy and cannot flee;
Therefore, they shall be trodden down
and shall be left to perish.
Yea, wo unto this people which are called
the people of Nephi!
Except they shall repent when they shall see all those
signs and wonders which shall be showed unto them;
For behold, they have been a chosen people of the Lord;
Yea, the people of Nephi hath He loved;
And also hath He chastened them, yea, in the days
of their iniquities hath He chastened them
because He loveth them.
But behold, my brethren, the Lamanites hath He hated
because their deeds have been evil continually,
And this because of the iniquity of the tradition
of their fathers.
But behold, salvation hath come unto them
through the preaching of the Nephites;
And for this intent hath the Lord prolonged their days.
And I would that ye should behold that the more
part of them are in the path of their duty –
And they do walk circumspectly before God,
And they do observe to keep His commandments
and His statutes and His judgments,
according to the law of Moses –
Yea, I say unto you that the more part
of them are doing this,
And they are striving with unwearied diligence,
that they may bring the remainder of their brethren
to the knowledge of the truth;
Therefore, there are many which do
add to their numbers daily.
And behold, ye do know of yourselves –
for ye have witnessed it –
That as many of them as are brought to the knowledge
of the truth and to know of the wicked
and abominable traditions of their fathers
and are led to believe the holy scriptures,
Yea, the prophecies of the holy prophets which are
written, which leadeth them to faith on the Lord*

*and unto repentance,
Which faith and repentance bringeth
a change of heart unto them –
Therefore, as many as have come to this – ye know of
yourselves – are firm and steadfast in the faith and
in the things wherewith they have been made free.
And ye know also that they have
buried their weapons of war,
And they fear to take them up lest
by any means they shall sin;
Yea, ye can see that they fear to sin.
For behold, they will suffer themselves that they
be trodden down and slain by their enemies
and will not lift their swords against them;
And this because of their faith in Christ.
And now because of their steadfastness – when they
do believe in that thing which they do believe –
For because of their firmness when they
are once enlightened,
Behold, the Lord shall bless them and prolong their days,
notwithstanding their iniquity;
Yea, even if they should dwindle in unbelief, the Lord
shall prolong their days until the time shall come
which hath been spoken of by our fathers –
And also by the prophet Zenos,
and many other prophets –
Concerning the restoration of our brethren the
Lamanites again, to the knowledge of the truth.
Yea, I say unto you that in the latter times,
the promises of the Lord hath been extended
to our brethren the Lamanites;
And notwithstanding the many afflictions
which they shall have,
And notwithstanding they shall be driven to and fro upon
the face of the earth and be hunted and shall be smitten
and scattered abroad, having no place for refuge,
The Lord shall be merciful unto them;
And this is according to the prophecy that they shall
again be brought to the true knowledge –
Which is knowledge of their Redeemer and*

*their great and their true Shepherd –
 And be numbered among His sheep.
 Therefore, I say unto you, it shall be better
 for them than for you, except ye repent.
 For behold, had the mighty works been shown
 unto them which have been shown unto you –
 Yea, unto them which have dwindled in unbelief
 because of the traditions of their fathers –
 Ye can see of yourselves that they never would
 again have dwindled in unbelief;
 Therefore, saith the Lord, I will not utterly destroy them,
 But I will cause that in the days of My wisdom,
 they shall return again unto Me, saith the Lord;
 And now behold, saith the Lord concerning
 the people of the Nephites, if they will not
 repent and observe to do My will,
 I will utterly destroy them, saith the Lord,
 because of their unbelief,
 Notwithstanding the many mighty works
 which I have done among them;
 And as surely as the Lord liveth shall
 these things be, saith the Lord.
 And now it came to pass that there were many
 which heard the words of Samuel the Lamanite
 which he spake upon the walls of the city;
 And as many as believed on his words
 went forth and sought for Nephi;
 And when they came forth and found him, they confessed
 unto him their sins and denied not, desiring
 that they might be baptized unto the Lord.*

- **The Voice of Nephi, the Son of Nephi:**

From: III Nephi 3:56-70

*And it came to pass that Nephi –
 Having been visited by angels,
 and also the voice of the Lord,
 Therefore, having seen angels and being eyewitness,
 And having had power given unto him that he might
 know concerning the ministry of Christ,*

And also being eyewitness to their quick return from righteousness unto their wickedness and also abominations, Therefore, being grieved for the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds – Went forth among them in that same year and began to testify boldly repentance and remission of sins through faith on the Lord Jesus Christ. And he did minister many things unto them – And all of them cannot be written and a part of them would not suffice, Therefore, they are not written in this book – And Nephi did minister with power and with great authority. And it came to pass that they were angry with him, even because he had greater power than they, For it were not possible that they could disbelieve his words, For so great was his faith on the Lord Jesus Christ that angels did minister unto him daily; And in the name of Jesus did he cast out devils and unclean spirits; And even his brother did he raise from the dead after he had been stoned and suffered death by the people; And the people saw it and did witness of it and were angry with him because of his power; And he did also do many more miracles in the sight of the people in the name of Jesus. And it came to pass that the thirty and first year did pass away and there were but few which were converted unto the Lord; But as many as were converted did truly signify unto the people that they had been visited by the power and Spirit of God which was in Jesus Christ in whom they believed. And as many as had devils cast out from them and were healed of their sicknesses and their infirmities did truly manifest unto the people that they had been wrought upon by the Spirit of God and had been healed; And they did show forth signs also and did do some miracles among the people.

*And it came to pass that thus passed away
the thirty and second year also.
And Nephi did cry unto the people in the
commencement of the thirty and third year;
And he did preach unto them repentance
and remission of sins.
Now I would have you remember also that there
were none which were brought unto repentance
who were not baptized with water;
Therefore, there were ordained of Nephi men
unto this ministry, that all such as should come
unto them should be baptized with water,
And this as a witness and a testimony before God
and unto the people that they had repented
and received a remission of their sins;
And there were many in the commencement
of this year that were baptized unto repentance.
And thus the more part of the year did pass away.*

From: III Nephi 5:13-46

*And it came to pass that when Jesus had spake these
words, the whole multitude fell to the earth,
For they remembered that it had been prophesied
among them that Christ should show Himself
unto them after His ascension into heaven.
And it came to pass that the Lord spake unto them, saying:
Arise and come forth unto Me,
That ye may thrust your hands into My side,
And also that ye may feel the prints of the nails
in My hands and in My feet,
That ye may know that I Am the God of Israel
and the God of the whole earth and have been
slain for the sins of the world.
And it came to pass that the multitude went forth and
did thrust their hands into His side and did feel
the prints of the nails in His hands and in His feet;
And this they did do, going forth one by one,
Until they had all gone forth,
and did see with their eyes,
and did feel with their hands,*

*and did know of a surety,
and did bear record,
That it was He of whom it was written
by the prophets that should come.
And it came to pass that when they had all gone forth
and had witnessed for themselves, they did
cry out with one accord, saying:
Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the Most High God!
And they did fall down at the feet of Jesus
and did worship Him.
And it came to pass that He spake unto Nephi –
for Nephi was among the multitude – and
commanded him that he should come forth;
And Nephi arose and went forth and bowed himself
before the Lord and he did kiss His feet;
And the Lord commanded him that he should arise,
And he arose and stood before Him.
And the Lord said unto him:
I give unto you power that ye shall baptize this people
when I am again ascended into heaven.
And again the Lord called others and said unto them likewise;
And He gave unto them power to baptize.
And He saith unto them:
On this wise shall ye baptize – and there
shall be no disputations among you –
Verily I say unto you, that whosoever repenteth
of his sins through your words and desireth
to be baptized in My name,
On this wise shall ye baptize them:
Behold, ye shall go down and stand in the water
and in My name shall ye baptize them.
And now behold, these are the words which ye shall say,
calling them by name, saying,
Having authority given me of Jesus Christ,
I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.
And then shall ye immerse them in the water
and come forth again out of the water.
And after this manner shall ye baptize in My name.
For behold, verily I say unto you that the Father*

*and the Son and the Holy Ghost are one;
And I Am in the Father and the Father in Me
and the Father and I are one;
And according as I have commanded you,
thus shall ye baptize;
And there shall be no disputations among you
as there hath hitherto been,
Neither shall there be disputations among you concerning
the points of My doctrine as there hath hitherto been;
For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit
of contention is not of Me, but is of the devil
which is the father of contention,
And he stirreth up the hearts of men
to contend with anger one with another.
Behold, this is not My doctrine – to stir up the
hearts of men to anger against one another;
But this is My doctrine – that such things
should be done away.
Behold, verily, verily I say unto you,
I will declare unto you My doctrine;
And this is My doctrine and it is the doctrine
which the Father hath given unto Me –
And I bear record of the Father,
And the Father beareth record of Me,
And the Holy Ghost beareth record
of the Father and Me –
And I bear record that the Father commandeth
all men everywhere to repent and believe in Me;
And whoso believeth in Me and is baptized,
the same shall be saved,
And they are they which shall inherit the kingdom of God;
And whoso believeth not in Me and is not baptized
shall be damned!
Verily, verily I say unto you that this is My doctrine,
And I bear record of it from the Father;
And whoso believeth in Me, believeth in the Father also;
And unto him will the Father bear record of Me,
For He will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost;
And thus will the Father bear record of Me;
And the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him*

*of the Father and Me,
For the Father and I and the Holy Ghost are one.
And again I say unto you,
Ye must repent,
 and become as a little child,
 and be baptized in My name,
Or ye can in no wise receive these things!
And again I say unto you,
Ye must repent,
 and be baptized in My name,
 and become as a little child,
Or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God!
Verily, verily I say unto you that this is My doctrine;
And whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon My rock,
And the gates of hell shall not prevail against them.
And whoso shall declare more or less than this
 and establish it for My doctrine,
The same cometh of evil and is not built upon My rock;
But he buildeth upon a sandy foundation,
And the gates of hell standeth open to receive such
 when the floods come and the winds beat upon them;
Therefore, go forth unto this people and declare the words
 which I have spoken unto the ends of the earth.
And it came to pass that when Jesus had spake these words
 unto Nephi and to those which had been called –
 now the number of them which had been called and
 received power and authority to baptize were twelve –
And behold, He stretched forth His hand unto
 the multitude and cried unto them, saying:
Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words
 of these twelve which I have chosen from among you
 to minister unto you and to be your servants;
And unto them I have given power
 that they may baptize you with water;
And after that ye are baptized with water,
Behold, I will baptize you with fire
 and with the Holy Ghost.*

From: III Nephi 9:4-16

And it came to pass that on the morrow

*when the multitude was gathered together,
Behold, Nephi and his brother whom he had raised
from the dead, whose name was Timothy,
and also his son, whose name was Jonas,
and also Mathoni and Mathonihah, his brother,
and Kumen and Kumenonhi and Jeremiah and
Shemnon and Jonas and Zedekiah and Isaiah –
Now these were the names of the disciples
whom Jesus had chosen –
And it came to pass that they went forth
and stood in the midst of the multitude;
And behold, the multitude was so great that they did cause
that they should be separated into twelve bodies,
And the twelve did teach the multitude;
But behold, they did cause that the multitude
should kneel down upon the face of the earth
and should pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus,
And the disciples did pray unto the Father
also in the name of Jesus.
And it came to pass that they arose
and ministered unto the people;
And when they had ministered those same words
which Jesus had spoken, nothing varying
from the words which Jesus had spoken,
Behold, they knelt again and prayed to the Father
in the name of Jesus;
And they did pray for that which they most desired,
And they desired that the Holy Ghost
should be given unto them;
And when they had thus prayed, they went down unto
the water's edge and the multitude followed them.
And it came to pass that Nephi went down
into the water and was baptized,
And he came up out of the water and began to baptize,
And he did baptize all they whom Jesus had chosen.
And it came to pass when they were all baptized
and had come up out of the water,
the Holy Ghost did fall upon them,
And they were filled with the Holy Ghost and with fire;
And behold, they were encircled about as if it were fire;*

*And it came down from heaven and the multitude
did witness it and do bear record;
And angels did come down out of heaven
and did minister unto them.
And it came to pass that while the angels
were ministering unto the disciples,
Behold, Jesus came and stood in the midst
and ministered unto them.*

- **The Voice of Mormon:**

From: Words of Mormon 1:11-17

*And now I do not know all things, but the Lord
knoweth all things which are to come,
Wherefore, He worketh in me to do according to His will;
And my prayer to God is concerning my brethren,
that they may once again come to the knowledge
of God, yea, the redemption of Christ,
That they may once again be a delightsome people.
And now I, Mormon, proceed to finish out my record
which I take from the plates of Nephi,
And I make it according to the knowledge and the
understanding which God hath given me.
Wherefore, it came to pass that after Amaleki had deliv-
ered up these plates into the hands of King Benjamin,
He took them and put them with the other plates
which contained records which had been handed
down by the kings from generation to generation
until the days of King Benjamin;
And they were handed down from King Benjamin
from generation to generation until they have
fallen into my hands.
And I, Mormon, pray to God that they may
be preserved from this time henceforth;
And I know that they will be preserved,
For there are great things written upon them out
of which my people and their brethren shall be
judged at the great and last day, according
to the word of God which is written.*

From: III Nephi 2:96-109

*And behold, I am called Mormon, being called
after the Land of Mormon –
The land in the which Alma did establish the church
among this people, yea, the first church which was
established among them after their transgression.
Behold, I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
I have been called of Him to declare His word among
His people, that they might have everlasting life.
And it hath become expedient that I – according to the
will of God that the prayers of those which have gone
hence, which were the holy ones, should be fulfilled
according to their faith – should make a record
of these things which have been done,
Yea, a small record of that which hath taken place
from the time that Lehi left Jerusalem,
even down until the present time.
Therefore, I do make my record from the accounts
which hath been given by those which were
before me until the commencement of my day,
And then do I make a record of the things
which I have seen with mine own eyes;
And I know the record which I make
to be a just and a true record;
Nevertheless, there are many things which,
according to our language, we are not able to write;
And now I make an end of my saying, which is of myself,
and proceed to give my account of the things
which hath been before me.
I am Mormon and a pure descendant of Lehi;
I have reason to bless my God
and my Savior Jesus Christ –
That He brought our fathers out of the Land of
Jerusalem – and no one knew it, save it were Himself
and those which He brought out of that land –
And that He hath given me and my people so much
knowledge unto the salvation of our souls.
Surely He hath blessed the house of Jacob and
hath been merciful unto the seed of Joseph;
And inasmuch as the children of Lehi hath kept*

*His commandments, He hath blessed them
and prospered them according to His word.
Yea, and surely shall He again bring a remnant of the seed
of Joseph to the knowledge of the Lord their God;
And as surely as the Lord liveth will He gather in
from the four quarters of the earth all the remnant
of the seed of Jacob which are scattered abroad
upon all the face of the earth.
And as He hath covenanted with all the house of Jacob,
Even so shall the covenant wherewith He hath covenanted
with the house of Jacob be fulfilled
in His own due time,
Unto the restoring all the house of Jacob
unto the knowledge of the covenant
that He hath covenanted with them.
And then shall they know their Redeemer,
which is Jesus Christ the Son of God;
And then shall they be gathered in from the four
quarters of the earth unto their own lands,
from whence they have been dispersed.
Yea, as the Lord liveth, so shall it be! Amen.*

From: Mormon 1:1-6

*And now I, Mormon, make a record of the things
which I have both seen and heard,
And call it the book of Mormon.
And about the time that Ammoron hid up
the records unto the Lord, he came unto me,
I, being about ten years of age –
And I began to be learned somewhat after
the manner of the learning of my people –
And Ammoron saith unto me:
I perceive that thou art a sober child
and art quick to observe;
Therefore, when ye are about twenty and four years old,
I would that ye should remember the things
that ye have observed concerning this people;
And when ye are of that age, go to the Land of Antum,
unto a hill which shall be called Shim,
And there have I deposited unto the Lord*

*all the sacred engravings concerning this people.
And behold, ye shall take the
plates of Nephi unto yourself,
And the remainder shall ye leave
in the place where they are,
And ye shall engrave upon the plates of Nephi all the
things that ye have observed concerning this people.
And I, Mormon, being a descendant of Nephi –
and my father's name was Mormon –
And I remembered the things
which Ammoron commanded me.*

From: Mormon 1:82-89

*Yea, behold, I write unto all the ends of the earth,
Yea, unto you, twelve tribes of Israel, which shall be
judged according to your works by the twelve whom
Jesus chose to be His disciples in the Land of Jerusalem,
And I write also unto the remnant of this people, which
shall also be judged by the twelve whom Jesus chose in
this land and they shall be judged by the other twelve
whom Jesus chose in the Land of Jerusalem –
And these things does the Spirit manifest unto me –
Therefore, I write unto you all.
And for this cause I write unto you:
That ye may know that ye must all stand before
the judgment seat of Christ, yea, every soul
which belongs to the whole human family of Adam;
And ye must stand to be judged of your works,
whether they be good or evil;
And also that ye may believe the gospel of Jesus Christ
which ye shall have among you;
And also that the Jews, the covenant people of the Lord,
shall have other witness besides that which they
saw and heard, that Jesus whom they slew
was the very Christ and the very God;
And I would that I could persuade all ye ends of the earth
to repent and prepare to stand before
the judgment seat of Christ.*

From: Mormon 3:24-33

*And now behold, I would speak somewhat unto
the remnant of this people which are spared,
If it so be that God may give unto them my words,
that they may know of the things of their fathers;
Yea, I speak unto you, ye remnant of the house of Israel,
And these are the words which I speak:
Know ye that ye are of the house of Israel!
Know ye that ye must come unto repentance
or ye cannot be saved!
Know ye that ye must lay down your weapons of war and
delight no more in the shedding of blood and take them
not again, save it be that God shall command you.
Know ye that ye must come to the knowledge of your
fathers and repent of all your sins and iniquities
and believe in Jesus Christ,
That He is the Son of God
and that He was slain by the Jews,
And by the power of the Father He hath risen again,
Whereby He hath gained the victory over the grave.
And also in Him is the sting of death swallowed up;
And He bringeth to pass the resurrection of the dead,
Whereby man must be raised
to stand before His judgment seat.
And He hath brought to pass the redemption of the world,
Whereby he that is found guiltless before Him
at the judgment day hath it given unto them
to dwell in the presence of God in His kingdom,
To sing ceaseless praises with the choirs above unto the
Father and unto the Son and unto the Holy Ghost,
which is one God, in a state of happiness
which hath no end.
Therefore, repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus
and lay hold upon the gospel of Christ
which shall be set before you,
Not only in this record, but also in the record which
shall come unto the Gentiles from the Jews, which
record shall come from the Gentiles unto you.
For behold, this is written for the intent
that ye may believe that;*

*And if ye believe that, ye will believe this also;
And if ye believe this, ye will know concerning your
fathers, and also the marvelous works which were
wrought by the power of God among them.
And ye will also know that ye are a remnant
of the seed of Jacob;
Therefore, ye are numbered among the people
of the first covenant;
And if it so be that ye believe in Christ and are baptized –
First with water, then with fire and with the Holy Ghost,
following the example of our Savior according to
that which He hath commanded us –
It shall be well with you in the day of judgment. Amen.*

From: Moroni 7:2-53

*And now I, Mormon, speak unto you,
my beloved brethren;
And it is by the grace of God the Father and our Lord
Jesus Christ and His holy will, because of the gift
of His calling unto me, that I am permitted
to speak unto you at this time;
Wherefore, I would speak unto you that are of the church,
that are the peaceable followers of Christ,
And that have obtained a sufficient hope by which ye
can enter into the rest of the Lord from this time
henceforth, until ye shall rest with Him in heaven.
And now my brethren, I judge these things of you because
of your peaceable walk with the children of men;
For I remember the word of God which saith:
By their works ye shall know them;
For if their works be good, then they are good also.
For behold, God hath said:
A man being evil cannot do that which is good.
For if he offereth a gift or prayeth unto God, except he
shall do it with real intent, it profiteth him nothing;
For behold, it is not counted unto him for righteousness.
For behold, if a man being evil giveth a gift,
he doeth it grudgingly;
Wherefore, it is counted unto him
the same as if he had retained the gift;*

*Wherefore, he is counted evil before God.
And likewise also is it counted evil unto a man
if he shall pray, and not with real intent of heart;
Yea, and it profiteth him nothing,
for God receiveth none such;
Wherefore, a man being evil cannot do that which is good;
Neither will he give a good gift.
For behold, a bitter fountain
cannot bring forth good water;
Neither can a good fountain bring forth bitter water;
Wherefore, a man being the servant of the devil
cannot follow Christ;
And if he follow Christ, he cannot be a servant of the devil.
Wherefore, all things which are good cometh of God;
And that which is evil cometh of the devil;
For the devil is an enemy unto God
and fighteth against Him continually,
And inviteth and enticeth to sin
and to do that which is evil continually.
But behold, that which is of God inviteth
and enticeth to do good continually;
Wherefore, everything which inviteth and enticeth
to do good and to love God and to serve Him
is inspired of God;
Wherefore, take heed, my beloved brethren, that ye
do not judge that which is evil to be of God,
Or that which is good and of God to be of the devil.
For behold, my brethren, it is given unto you to judge,
that ye may know good from evil;
And the way to judge is as plain, that ye may know
with a perfect knowledge, as the daylight
is from the dark night;
For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man,
that they may know good from evil.
Wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge:
For everything which inviteth to do good and
to persuade to believe in Christ is sent forth
by the power and gift of Christ;
Wherefore, ye may know with a perfect knowledge
it is of God;*

*But whatsoever thing persuadeth men to do evil and
believe not in Christ and deny Him and serve not God,
Then ye may know with a perfect knowledge
it is of the devil;
For after this manner doth the devil work,
For he persuadeth no man to do good – No! Not one!
neither doth his angels,
neither doth they which subject themselves unto him.
And now my brethren, seeing that ye know the light by
which ye may judge, which light is the light of Christ,
See that ye do not judge wrongfully;
For with that same judgment which ye judge,
ye shall also be judged;
Wherefore, I beseech of you, brethren, that ye
should search diligently in the light of Christ
that ye may know good from evil;
And if ye will lay hold upon every good thing and
condemn it not, ye certainly will be a child of Christ.
And now my brethren, how is it possible
that ye can lay hold upon every good thing?
And now I come to that faith
of which I said I would speak,
And I will tell you the way whereby
ye may lay hold on every good thing.
For behold, God knowing all things,
being from everlasting to everlasting,
Behold, He sent angels to minister unto the children of
men, to make manifest concerning the coming of Christ;
And in Christ there should come every good thing;
And God also declared unto prophets by His own mouth
that Christ should come.
And behold, there were divers ways that He did manifest
things unto the children of men, which were good;
And all things which are good cometh of Christ;
Otherwise, men were fallen and there
could no good thing come unto them;
Wherefore, by the ministering of angels and by every word
which proceeded forth out of the mouth of God,
men began to exercise faith in Christ;
And thus by faith they did lay hold upon every good thing;*

*And thus it was until the coming of Christ;
 And after that He came, men also were saved by faith
 in His name;
 And by faith they become the sons of God.
 And assuredly as Christ liveth, He spake these words
 unto our fathers, saying:
 Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in My name,
 which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive,
 Behold, it shall be done unto you.
 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, hath miracles ceased
 because that Christ hath ascended into heaven
 and hath sat down on the right hand of God
 to claim of the Father His rights of mercy
 which He hath upon the children of men? –
 For He hath answered the ends of the law,
 And He claimeth all those that hath faith in Him;
 And they that have faith in Him
 will cleave unto every good thing;
 Wherefore, He advocateth the cause of the children of men;
 And He dwelleth eternally in the heavens –
 And because that He hath done this, my beloved brethren,
 hath miracles ceased?
 Behold, I say unto you, Nay!
 Neither hath angels ceased to minister
 unto the children of men;
 For behold, they are subject unto Him to minister
 according to the word of His command,
 Showing themselves unto them of strong faith
 and a firm mind in every form of godliness;
 And the office of their ministry is
 to call men unto repentance,
 And to fulfill and to do the work of the covenants of the
 Father which He hath made unto the children of men,
 To prepare the way among the children of men by
 declaring the word of Christ unto the chosen vessels
 of the Lord, that they may bear testimony of Him.
 And by so doing, the Lord God prepareth the way that
 the residue of men may have faith in Christ,
 that the Holy Ghost may have place in
 their hearts according to the power thereof;*

*And after this manner bringeth to pass the Father
the covenants which He hath made
unto the children of men.
And Christ hath said:
If ye will have faith in Me, ye shall have power
to do whatsoever thing is expedient in Me.
And He hath said:
Repent! all ye ends of the earth,
and come unto Me!
and be baptized in My name!
and have faith in Me that ye may be saved!
And now my beloved brethren, if this be the case, that
these things are true which I have spoken unto you –
And God will show unto you with power and great glory
at the last day that they are true –
And if they are true, hath the day of miracles ceased?
Or hath angels ceased to appear unto the children of men?
Or hath He withheld the power of the Holy Ghost
from them?
Or will He, so long as time shall last?
Or the earth shall stand?
Or there shall be one man upon
the face thereof to be saved?
Behold, I say unto you, Nay!
For it is by faith that miracles are wrought;
And it is by faith that angels appear
and minister unto men.
Wherefore, if these things have ceased,
wo be unto the children of men!
For it is because of unbelief,
And all is vain, for no man can be saved, according to the
words of Christ, save they shall have faith in His name;
Wherefore, if these things have ceased, then has
faith ceased also and awful is the state of man,
For they are as though there had been
no redemption made.
But behold, my beloved brethren,
I judge better things of you,
For I judge that ye have faith in Christ
because of your meekness;*

*For if ye have not faith in Him, then ye are not fit
to be numbered among the people of His church.
And again, my beloved brethren, I would
speak unto you concerning hope;
How is it that ye can attain unto faith,
save ye shall have hope?
And what is it that ye shall hope for?
Behold, I say unto you that ye shall have hope
through the atonement of Christ and the power
of His resurrection to be raised unto life eternal,
And this because of your faith in Him
according to the promise;
Wherefore, if a man have faith, he must needs have hope;
For without faith, there cannot be any hope.
And again, behold, I say unto you that he cannot have faith
and hope, save he shall be meek and lowly of heart;
If so, his faith and hope are vain,
For none is acceptable before God,
save the meek and lowly of heart;
And if a man be meek and lowly in heart and confesses
by the power of the Holy Ghost that Jesus is the Christ,
he must needs have charity;
For if he have not charity, he is nothing;
Wherefore, he must needs have charity –
And charity suffereth long,
and is kind and envieth not,
and is not puffed up,
seeketh not her own,
is not easily provoked,
thinketh no evil,
and rejoiceth not in iniquity,
but rejoiceth in the truth,
beareth all things,
believeth all things,
hopeth all things,
endureth all things –
Wherefore, my beloved brethren, if ye have not charity
ye are nothing, for charity never faileth;
Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must
fail;*

*But charity is the pure love of Christ,
And it endureth forever;
And whoso is found possessed of it at the last day,
it shall be well with them.
Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father
with all the energy of heart,
That ye may be filled with this love which He
hath bestowed upon all who are true followers
of His Son Jesus Christ,
That ye may become the sons of God,
That when He shall appear, we shall be like Him –
for we shall see Him as He is –
That we may have this hope,
That we may be purified even as He is pure. Amen.*

From: Moroni 8:1-35

*An epistle of my father Mormon, written to me, Moroni.
And it was written unto me soon after my calling to the
ministry.
And on this wise did he write unto me, saying:
My beloved son Moroni,
I rejoice exceedingly that your Lord Jesus Christ
hath been mindful of you and hath called you
to His ministry and to His holy work;
I am mindful of you always in my prayers,
Continually praying unto God the Father,
in the name of His holy Child Jesus,
That He through His infinite goodness and grace
will keep you through the endurance of faith
on His name to the end.
And now my son, I speak unto you concerning
that which grieveth me exceedingly;
For it grieveth me that there should
disputations rise among you;
For if I have learned the truth, there have been
disputations among you concerning
the baptizing of your little children.
And now my son, I desire that ye should labor
exceedingly that this gross error
should be removed from among you;*

*For, for this intent I have written this epistle.
 For immediately after I had learned these things of you,
 I inquired of the Lord concerning the matter;
 And the word of the Lord came to me by the power
 of the Holy Ghost, saying:
 Listen to the words of Christ your Redeemer,
 your Lord and your God;
 Behold, I came into the world, not to call the righteous,
 but sinners to repentance;
 The whole need no physician, but they that are sick;
 Wherefore, little children are whole,
 for they are not capable of committing sin;
 Wherefore, the curse of Adam is taken from them in Me,
 that it hath no power over them;
 And the law of circumcision is done away in Me.
 And after this manner did the Holy Ghost
 manifest the word of God unto me;
 Wherefore, my beloved son, I know that it is
 solemn mockery before God that ye
 should baptize little children.
 Behold, I say unto you that this thing shall ye teach:
 Repentance and baptism unto they which are
 accountable and capable of committing sin;
 Yea, teach parents that they must repent and be baptized
 and humble themselves as their little children,
 And they shall all be saved with their little children;
 And their little children need no repentance,
 neither baptism.
 Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling
 the commandments unto the remission of sins;
 But little children are alive in Christ,
 even from the foundation of the world;
 If not so, God is a partial God, and also a
 changeable Being and a respecter to persons;
 For how many little children have died without baptism?
 Wherefore, if little children could not be saved without
 baptism, these must have gone to an endless hell.
 Behold, I say unto you that he that supposeth that
 little children needeth baptism is in the gall
 of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity,*

*For he hath neither faith, hope nor charity;
 Wherefore, should he be cut off while in the thought,
 he must go down to hell;
 For awful is the wickedness to suppose that God
 saveth one child because of baptism and the other
 must perish because he hath no baptism;
 Wo be unto him that shall pervert the ways
 of the Lord after this manner!
 For they shall perish, except they repent!
 Behold, I speak with boldness,
 having authority from God;
 For I fear not what man can do;
 For perfect love casteth out all fear;
 And I am filled with charity, which is everlasting love;
 Wherefore, all children are alike unto me;
 Wherefore, I love little children with a perfect love;
 And they are all alike and partakers of salvation;
 For I know that God is not a partial God,
 neither a changeable Being,
 But He is unchangeable from all eternity to all eternity.
 Little children cannot repent;
 Wherefore, it is awful wickedness to deny
 the pure mercies of God unto them,
 For they are all alive in Him because of His mercy;
 And He that saith that little children needeth baptism
 denieth the mercies of Christ and setteth at naught the
 atonement of Him and the power of His redemption;
 Wo unto such! for they are in danger of death,
 hell and an endless torment;
 I speak it boldly! God hath commanded me.
 Listen unto them and give heed,
 Or they stand against you at the judgment seat of Christ;
 For behold that all little children are alive in Christ,
 and also all they that are without the law;
 For the power of redemption cometh
 on all they that have no law;
 Wherefore, he that is not condemned, or he that is
 under no condemnation, cannot repent,
 And unto such baptism availeth nothing;
 But it is mockery before God! denying the mercies*

*of Christ and the power of His Holy Spirit
and putting trust in dead works.
Behold, my son, this thing had not ought to be!
For repentance is unto them that are under condemnation
and under the curse of a broken law;
And the firstfruits of repentance is baptism,
And baptism cometh by faith,
unto the fulfilling the commandments,
And the fulfilling the commandments
bringeth remission of sins,
And the remission of sins
bringeth meekness and lowliness of heart,
And because of meekness and lowliness of heart
cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost,
Which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love,
Which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the
end shall come when all the saints shall dwell with God.
Behold, my son, I will write unto you again
if I go not out soon against the Lamanites.
Behold, the pride of this nation, or the pride
of the Nephites, hath proved their destruction,
except they should repent;
Pray for them, my son, that repentance
may come unto them.
But behold, I fear lest the Spirit hath ceased
striving with them;
And in this part of the land they are also seeking to put
down all power and authority which cometh from God,
And they are denying the Holy Ghost;
And after rejecting so great a knowledge,
my son, they must perish soon,
Unto the fulfilling of the prophecies
which were spoken by the prophets,
as well as the words of our Savior Himself.
Farewell, my son, until I shall write unto you
or shall meet you again. Amen.*

From: Moroni 9:1-35

*The second epistle of Mormon to his son Moroni.
My beloved son, I write unto you again*

*that ye may know that I am yet alive;
But I write somewhat that which is grievous.
For behold, I have had a sore battle with the Lamanites,
in the which we did not conquer;
And Archeantus has fallen by the sword,
and also Laram and Emron,
Yea, and we have lost a great number of our choice men.
And now behold, my son, I fear lest the Lamanites
shall destroy this people, for they do not repent,
And Satan stirreth them up continually
to anger one with another.
Behold, I am laboring with them continually;
And when I speak the word of God with sharpness,
they tremble and anger against me;
And when I use no sharpness,
they harden their hearts against it;
Wherefore, I fear lest the Spirit of the Lord
hath ceased striving with them;
For so exceedingly do they anger, that it seemeth me
that they have no fear of death;
And they have lost their love one toward another;
And they thirst after blood and revenge continually.
And now my beloved son, notwithstanding
their hardness, let us labor diligently;
For if we should cease to labor, we should be
brought under condemnation;
For we have a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle
of clay, that we may conquer the enemy of all righteous –
ness and rest our souls in the kingdom of God.
And now I write somewhat concerning
the sufferings of this people;
For according to the knowledge which I have received
from Amoron,
Behold, the Lamanites have many prisoners
which they took from the tower of Sherrizah;
And there were men, women and children,
And the husbands and fathers of those women
and children they have slain,
And they feed the women upon the flesh of their husbands
and the children upon the flesh of their fathers;*

*And no water, save a little, do they give unto them.
And notwithstanding this great abomination
of the Lamanites, it doth not exceed
that of our people in Moriantum;
For behold, many of the daughters of the Lamanites
have they taken prisoners;
And after depriving them of that which was most dear
and precious above all things –
which is chastity and virtue –
And after that they had done this thing, they did
murder them in a most cruel manner,
torturing their bodies even unto death;
And after that they have done this, they
devour their flesh like unto wild beasts
because of the hardness of their hearts;
And they do it for a token of bravery.
O my beloved son, how can a people like this
that are without civilization –
And only a few years have passed away and they
were a civil and a delightsome people –
But O my son, how can a people like this,
whose delight is in so much abomination –
How can we expect that God will stay His hand
in judgment against us?
Behold, my heart cries, Wo unto this people!
Come out in judgment, O God,
And hide their sins and wickedness
and abominations from before Thy face!
And again, my son, there are many widows
and their daughters which remain in Sherrizah;
And that part of the provisions which the Lamanites
did not carry away,
Behold, the army of Zenephi has carried away and left
them to wander whithersoever they can for food;
And many old women do faint by the way and die.
And the army which is with me is weak;
And the armies of the Lamanites are
betwixt Sherrizah and me;
And as many as have fled to the army of Aaron
have fallen victims to their awful brutality.*

*O the depravity of my people!
 They are without order and without mercy.
 Behold, I am but a man and I have
 but the strength of a man,
 And I cannot any longer enforce my commands;
 And they have become strong in their perversion;
 And they are alike brutal, sparing none,
 neither old nor young;
 And they delight in everything, save that which is good;
 And the sufferings of our women and our children
 upon all the face of this land doth exceed everything –
 Yea, tongue cannot tell, neither can it be written.
 And now my son, I dwell no longer
 upon this horrible scene;
 Behold, thou knowest the wickedness of this people;
 Thou knowest that they are without principle
 and past feeling;
 And their wickedness doth exceed that of the Lamanites;
 Behold, my son, I cannot recommend them
 unto God, lest He should smite me.
 But behold, my son, I recommend thee unto God,
 And I trust in Christ that thou wilt be saved;
 And I pray unto God that He would spare thy life
 to witness the return of His people unto Him,
 or their utter destruction;
 For I know that they must perish, except they repent
 and return unto Him;
 And if they perish, it will be like unto the Jaredites,
 because of the willfulness of their hearts,
 seeking for blood and revenge;
 And if it so be that they perish, we know that many of
 our brethren have dissented over unto the Lamanites
 and many more will also dissent over unto them;
 Wherefore, write somewhat a few things, if thou
 art spared and I should perish and not see thee;
 But I trust that I may see thee soon, for I have sacred
 records that I would deliver up unto thee.
 My son, be faithful in Christ;
 And may not the things which I have written
 grieve thee, to weigh thee down unto death,*

*But may Christ lift thee up;
And may His sufferings and death,
and the showing His body unto our fathers,
and His mercy and longsuffering,
and the hope of His glory and of eternal life
rest in your mind forever;
And may the grace of God the Father, whose throne is high
in the heavens, and our Lord Jesus Christ, who sitteth
on the right hand of His power until all things shall
become subject unto Him, be and abide with you
forever. Amen.*

- **The Voice of Moroni:**

From: Mormon 4:15-19

*Behold, I am Moroni,
And were it possible I would make
all things known unto you.
Behold, I make an end of speaking concerning this people;
I am the son of Mormon and my father
was a descendant of Nephi,
And I am the same which hide up
this record unto the Lord;
The plates thereof are of no worth because
of the commandment of the Lord,
For He truly saith that none shall have them to get gain;
But the record thereof is of great worth,
And whoso shall bring it to light, him will the Lord bless.
For no one can have power to bring it to light,
save it be given him of God;
For God will that it shall be done with an eye single
to His glory, or the welfare of the ancient and
long dispersed covenant people of the Lord.*

From: Mormon 4:93-97

*Doubt not, but be believing,
And begin as in times of old,
And come unto the Lord with all your heart,
And work out your own salvation
with fear and trembling before Him.*

*Be wise in the days of your probation;
Strip yourselves of all uncleanness;
Ask not that ye may consume it on your lusts;
But ask with a firmness unshaken, that ye
 will yield to no temptation,
But that ye will serve the true and living God.
See that ye are not baptized unworthily;
See that ye partake not of the sacrament
 of Christ unworthily;
But see that ye do all things in worthiness,
And do it in the name of Jesus Christ,
 the Son of the living God;
And if ye do this and endure to the end,
 ye will in no wise be cast out.
Behold, I speak unto you as though I spake from the dead,
 for I know that ye shall have my words;
Condemn me not because of mine imperfection,
 neither my father because of his imperfection,
 neither them which have written before him;
But rather give thanks unto God that He hath
 made manifest unto you our imperfections,
That ye may learn to be more wise
 than that which we have been.*

From: Ether 1:31-35

*And now we can behold the decrees of God
 concerning this land –
That it is a Land of Promise and whatsoever nation
 shall possess it shall serve God,
Or they shall be swept off when the fullness
 of His wrath shall come upon them;
And the fullness of His wrath cometh upon them
 when they are ripened in iniquity;
For behold, this is a land which is choice
 above all other lands;
Wherefore, he that doth possess it
 shall serve God or shall be swept off,
For it is the everlasting decrees of God –
And it is not until the fullness of iniquity among
 the children of the land that they are swept off.*

*And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles,
that ye may know the decrees of God,
That ye may repent and not continue in your iniquities
until the fullness be come,
That ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath
of God upon you as the inhabitants of the land
hath hitherto done.
Behold, this is a choice land;
And whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free
from bondage and from captivity and
from all other nations under heaven,
If they will but serve the God of the land which is
Jesus Christ, which hath been manifested
by the things which we have written.*

From: Ether 3:92-102

*And now I, Moroni, do not write the manner
of their oaths and combinations,
For it hath been made known unto me
that they are had among all people;
And they are had among the Lamanites,
And they have caused the destruction of this people
of which I am now speaking,
And also the destruction of the people of Nephi;
And whatsoever nation shall uphold such
secret combinations to get power and gain,
until they shall spread over the nation –
Behold, they shall be destroyed;
For the Lord will not suffer that the blood of His saints,
which shall be shed by them, shall always cry
unto Him from the ground for vengeance
upon them and yet He avengeth them not.
Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God
that these things should be shown unto you,
that thereby ye may repent of your sins,
And suffer not that these murderous combinations shall
get above you, which are built up to get power and gain,
And the work, yea, even the work
of destruction come upon you;
Yea, even the sword of the justice of the Eternal God*

*shall fall upon you to your overthrow and
destruction if ye shall suffer these things to be;
Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see
these things come among you, that ye shall awake
to a sense of your awful situation because of this
secret combination which shall be among you,
Or wo be unto it because of the blood
of them which have been slain!
For they cry from the dust for vengeance upon it,
and also upon those who build it up.
For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up
seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands,
nations and countries,
And it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people;
For it is built up by the devil, which is the father of all lies,
Even that same liar which beguiled our first parents,
Yea, even that same liar which hath caused man
to commit murder from the beginning,
Which hath hardened the hearts of men that they
have murdered the prophets and stoned them
and cast them out from the beginning.
Wherefore, I, Moroni, am commanded to write
these things that evil may be done away,
And that the time may come that Satan may have
no power upon the hearts of the children of men,
But that they may be persuaded to do good continually,
That they may come unto the fountain of all righteousness
and be saved.*

From: Ether 5:6-41

*And now I, Moroni, would speak somewhat
concerning these things;
I would show unto the world that faith
is things which are hoped for and not seen;
Wherefore, dispute not because ye see not,
For ye receive no witness – not until after
the trial of your faith.
For it was by faith that Christ showed Himself unto
our fathers after that He had risen from the dead;
And He showed not Himself unto them*

*until after they had faith in Him;
Wherefore, it must needs be that some had faith in Him,
For He showed Himself not unto the world;
But because of the faith of men, He has shown Himself
unto the world and glorified the name of the Father,
And prepared the way that thereby others
might be partakers of the heavenly gift,
That they might hope for those things
which they have not seen;
Wherefore, ye may also have hope and be
partakers of the gift, if ye will but have faith.
Behold, it was by faith that they of old
were called after the holy order of God;
Wherefore, by faith was the law of Moses given.
But in the gift of His Son hath God
prepared a more excellent way,
And it is by faith that it hath been fulfilled;
For if there be no faith among the children of men,
God can do no miracle among them;
Wherefore, He showed not Himself until after their faith.
Behold, it was the faith of Alma and Amulek
that caused the prison to tumble to the earth.
Behold, it was the faith of Nephi and Lehi that wrought
the change upon the Lamanites, that they were
baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost.
Behold, it was the faith of Ammon and his brethren which
wrought so great a miracle among the Lamanites;
Yea, and even all they which wrought miracles
wrought them by faith,
Even those which were before Christ,
and also them which were after.
And it was by faith that the three disciples obtained
a promise that they should not taste of death,
And they obtained not the promise until after their faith.
And neither at any time hath any wrought miracles
until after their faith;
Wherefore, they first believed in the Son of God.
And there were many whose faith was so exceeding strong,
even before Christ came, which could not be
kept from within the veil,*

*But truly saw with their eyes the things which they
had beheld with an eye of faith and they were glad.
And behold, we have seen in this record
that one of these was the brother of Jared;
For so great was his faith in God that when God put
forth His finger, He could not hide it from the sight
of the brother of Jared because of his word
which he had spoken unto Him,
which word he had obtained by faith;
And after that the brother of Jared
had beheld the finger of the Lord,
Because of the promise which the brother of Jared
had obtained by faith, the Lord could not
withhold anything from his sight;
Wherefore, He showed him all things,
for he could no longer be kept without the veil.
And it is by faith that my fathers have obtained
the promise that these things should come
unto their brethren through the Gentiles;
Therefore, the Lord hath commanded me,
yea, even Jesus Christ.
And I said unto Him:
Lord, the Gentiles will mock at these things
because of our weakness in writing,
For Lord, Thou hast made us mighty in word by faith,
Whereunto Thou hast not made us mighty in writing;
For Thou hast made all this people that they
could speak much because of the Holy Ghost
which Thou hast given them;
And Thou hast made us that we could write but little
because of the awkwardness of our hands.
Behold, Thou hast not made us mighty in writing
like unto the brother of Jared,
For Thou madest him that the things which he wrote
were mighty, even as Thou art, unto the
overpowering of man to read them;
Thou hast also made our words powerful and great,
even that we cannot write them;
Wherefore, when we write, we behold our weakness
and stumble because of the placing of our words;*

*And I fear lest the Gentiles shall mock at our words.
And when I had said this, the Lord spake unto me, saying:
Fools mock, but they shall mourn;
And My grace is sufficient for the meek that they
shall take no advantage of your weakness;
And if men come unto Me, I will show unto them
their weakness;
I give unto men weakness that they may be humble,
And My grace is sufficient for all men
that humble themselves before Me;
For if they humble themselves before Me and have faith
in Me, then will I make weak things
become strong unto them.
Behold, I will show unto the Gentiles their weakness,
And I will show unto them that faith, hope and charity
bringeth unto Me the fountain of all righteousness.
And I, Moroni, having heard these words,
was comforted and said:
O Lord, Thy righteous will be done,
For I know that Thou workest unto the children of men
according to their faith;
For the brother of Jared said unto the mountain Zerin,
Remove!-
And it was removed,
And if he had not had faith, it would not have moved.
Wherefore, Thou workest after that men have faith;
For thus did Thou manifest Thyself unto Thy disciples,
For after that they had faith and did speak in Thy name,
Thou didst show Thyself unto them in great power;
And I also rememberest that Thou hast said that
Thou hast prepared a house for man, yea, even
among the mansions of Thy Father, in the which
man might have a more excellent hope;
Wherefore, man must hope, or he cannot receive an
inheritance in the place which Thou hast prepared.
And again, I remember that Thou hast said
that Thou hast loved the world,
Even unto the laying down of Thy life for the world,
That Thou mightest take it again to prepare a place
for the children of men.*

*And now I know that this love which Thou hast had
for the children of men is charity;
Wherefore, except men shall have charity,
they cannot inherit that place which Thou hast
prepared in the mansions of Thy Father;
Wherefore, I know by this thing which Thou hast said –
that if the Gentiles have not charity
because of our weakness-
That Thou wilt prove them and take away their talent,
yea, even that which they have received,
And give unto them which shall have more abundantly.
And it came to pass that I prayed unto the Lord that
He would give unto the Gentiles grace
that they might have charity.
And it came to pass that the Lord said unto me:
If they have not charity, it mattereth not unto thee;
Thou hast been faithful;
Wherefore, thy garments shall be made clean;
And because thou hast seen thy weakness,
thou shalt be made strong,
Even unto the sitting down in the place which I have
prepared in the mansions of My Father.
And now I, Moroni, bid farewell unto the Gentiles, yea,
and also unto my brethren whom I love, until we
shall meet before the judgment seat of Christ,
Where all men shall know that my garments
are not spotted with your blood;
And then shall ye know that I have seen Jesus,
And that He hath talked with me face to face,
And that He told me in plain humility, even as a man
telleth another, in mine own language
concerning these things;
And only a few have I written because
of my weakness in writing.
And now I would commend you to seek this Jesus
of whom the prophets and apostles have written,
That the grace of God the Father and also the Lord Jesus
Christ and the Holy Ghost, which beareth record
of Them, may be and abide in you forever. Amen.*

From: Moroni 1:1-4

*Now I, Moroni, after having made an end
of abridging the account of the people of Jared,
I had supposed to not have written more,
but I have not as yet perished.
And I make not myself known to the Lamanites,
lest they should destroy me;
For behold, their wars are exceeding fierce
among themselves;
And because of their hatred, they put to death
every Nephite that will not deny the Christ;
And I, Moroni, will not deny the Christ;
Wherefore, I wander whithersoever I can
for the safety of mine own life.
Wherefore, I write a few more things,
contrary to that which I had supposed –
For I had supposed not to have written any more –
But I write a few more things that perhaps they may be
of worth unto my brethren the Lamanites
in some future day, according to the will of the Lord.*

From: Moroni 10:1-31

*Now I, Moroni, write somewhat as seemeth me good;
And I write unto my brethren the Lamanites,
And I would that they should know that more than
four hundred and twenty years have passed away
since the sign was given of the coming of Christ;
And I seal up these records after that I have spoken
a few words by way of exhortation unto you.
Behold, I would exhort you that when ye shall read
these things – if it be wisdom in God that ye
should read them –
That ye would remember how merciful the Lord hath
been unto the children of men from the creation
of Adam, even down until the time
that ye shall receive these things,
And ponder it in your hearts.
And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you
that ye would ask God the Eternal Father, in the name
of Christ, if these things are not true;*

*And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent,
having faith in Christ,
And He will manifest the truth of it unto you
by the power of the Holy Ghost;
And by the power of the Holy Ghost,
ye may know the truth of all things;
And whatsoever thing is good, is just and true;
Wherefore, nothing that is good denieth the Christ,
but acknowledgeth that He is.
And ye may know that He is
by the power of the Holy Ghost;
Wherefore, I would exhort you
that ye deny not the power of God;
For He worketh by power according to the faith
of the children of men, the same today
and tomorrow and forever.
And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not
the gifts of God, for they are many
and they come from the same God;
And there are different ways
that these gifts are administered,
But it is the same God which worketh all in all;
And they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit
of God unto men to profit them.
For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God,
that he may teach the word of wisdom;
And to another, that he may teach the
word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
And to another, exceeding great faith;
And to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;
And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles;
And again, to another, that he may prophesy
concerning all things;
And again, to another, the beholding of angels
and ministering spirits;
And again, to another, all kinds of tongues;
And again, to another, the interpretation of languages
and of divers kinds of tongues.
And all these gifts come by the Spirit of Christ;
And they come unto every man severally,*

according as He will.
And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren, that ye
remember that every good gift cometh of Christ.
And I would exhort you, my beloved brethren,
that ye remember that He is the same yesterday,
today and forever,
And that all these gifts of which I have spoken,
which are spiritual, never will be done away,
even as long as the world shall stand, only
according to the unbelief of the children of men.
Wherefore, there must be faith;
And if there must be faith, there must also be hope;
And if there must be hope, there must also be charity;
And except ye have charity, ye can in no wise
be saved in the kingdom of God;
Neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God,
if ye have not faith;
Neither can ye, if ye have no hope;
And if ye have no hope, ye must needs be in despair;
And despair cometh because of iniquity.
And Christ truly said unto our fathers:
If ye have faith, ye can do all things
which are expedient unto Me.
And now I speak unto all the ends of the earth –
That if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God
shall be done away among you,
it shall be because of unbelief;
And wo be unto the children of men if this be the case!
For there shall be none that doeth good among you –
No! Not one!
For if there be one among you that doeth good,
he shall work by the power and gifts of God.
And wo unto them which shall
do these things away and die!
For they die in their sins,
And they cannot be saved in the kingdom of God;
And I speak it according to the words of Christ;
And I lie not.
And I exhort you to remember these things!
For the time speedily cometh that ye

*shall know that I lie not,
For ye shall see me at the bar of God,
And the Lord God will say unto you:
Did I not declare My words unto you which were written
by this man, like as one crying from the dead?
Yea, even as one speaking out of the dust?
I declare these things unto the fulfilling of the prophecies;
And behold, they shall proceed forth out
of the mouth of the Everlasting God;
And His word shall hiss forth from generation
to generation;
And God shall show unto you that
that which I have written is true.
And again, I would exhort you that ye would
come unto Christ and lay hold upon every good gift
and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing!
And awake! And arise from the dust, O Jerusalem!
Yea, and put on thy beautiful garments,
O daughter of Zion!
And strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever,
that thou mayest no more be confounded,
That the covenants of the Eternal God which He hath
made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled.
Yea, come unto Christ and be perfected in Him
and deny yourselves of all ungodliness,
And if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness and
love God with all your might, mind and strength,
Then is His grace sufficient for you,
that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ;
And if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ,
ye can in no wise deny the power of God.
And again, if ye by the grace of God are perfect in Christ
and deny not His power,
Then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God
through the shedding of the blood of Christ,
Which is in the covenant of the Father unto the remission
of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.
And now, I bid unto all, farewell;
I soon go to rest in the paradise of God until my spirit
and body shall again reunite,*

*And I am brought forth triumphant through the air to
meet you before the pleasing bar of the great Jehovah,
the Eternal Judge of both quick and dead. Amen.*

NOTES