

***Why Micah's Prophecy  
About Horses and Chariots  
Matters Today***

September 10, 2020

1<sup>st</sup> Printing

Prepared by  
Elder Dwight Burford

<https://hisworkmanship.net>



## Contents

Introduction .....	5
PART 1: Horses and Chariots Among Lehi's Posterity .....	7
Having Dwelt at Jerusalem in All His Days .....	7
A Speedy Destruction Cometh Unto My People.....	9
Left to Wander Whithersoever They Can for Food .....	13
And He Will Cause Them to Be Scattered and Smitten.....	16
Go Unto the Lamanites and Preach My Gospel Unto Them .....	18
The Nephites Had Taken Possession of All the Northern Parts of the Land .....	20
PART 2: The Enemy Is Combined .....	25
Gadianton Did Prove the Overthrow ... of the People of Nephi.....	25
The Spirit of the Lord Hath Ceased Striving With Them.....	28
Among the Gentiles as a Young Lion Among the Flocks of Sheep .....	30
Cut Off From Among the People .....	32
It Is Requisite With the Justice of God.....	34
Most Abominable and Wicked Above All in the Sight of God.....	37
PART 3: O Be Wise: What Can I Say More? .....	41
When Ye Shall See These Things Come Among You .....	41
Behold, the Enemy Is Combined.....	45
Hearken, O Ye Gentiles, and Hear the Words of Jesus Christ .....	48

## Micah 5:8-15

*And the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep; who, if he go through, both treadeth down, and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.*

*Thine hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.*

*And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Lord, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots;*

*And I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strong holds; And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers.*

*Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands.*

*And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities. And I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.*

## Introduction

When teaching the people of the Book of Mormon about His covenant with them as a *remnant* of the house of Israel (Jacob), Jesus Christ quoted from a number of prophecies, including **Micah 5:8-15**.<sup>1</sup> According to our Lord, Micah's prophecy pertains directly to Mormon's people. It also pertains, Jesus said, to the *many* people of this *Gentile* nation into whose hands Mormon's abridgment of their *sacred records* has since been placed.<sup>2</sup>

We would be wise, then, to study carefully what Jesus taught about **Micah 5:8-15** and the reason Mormon was led to include Jesus' teachings on this prophecy in his abridgment for our day.<sup>3</sup> We should understand why, for example, *a remnant of Jacob will be among the Gentiles in the midst of many people, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep*. It is equally important to understand why and how the Lord will *cut off the horses out of the midst of His covenant people's adversaries and enemies and destroy their chariots*.

Other prophets have spoken of the same or similar judgments. Moses, for instance, testified that these judgments will come upon everyone who does not *hearken* to the words of Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup> By examining Mormon's abridgment in light of these and other related prophecies, we can arrive at a better understanding and appreciation of the relationship between Micah's prophecy and the advent of the Book of Mormon in these last days. It is toward this end that the current study on Jesus' teachings about **Micah 5:8-15** has been undertaken.

There are three parts to this study. Part 1 includes a series of discussions on the history and knowledge of *horses* and *chariots* found in the Book of Mormon. Part 2 of this study outlines and explains what Jesus taught Lehi's posterity about the judgments described in **Micah 5:8-15** and why these judgments will come upon the *Gentiles* of this land. Then, Part 3 presents the Lord's call to action that He sent forth to this Gentile nation by way of the writings of the authors of the Book of Mormon.

Why focus on *horses* and *chariots* in Part 1? A quick search of information available on the Internet reveals that there are skeptics and enemies of the Book of Mormon who say no horses were present in the Americas prior to their introduction here by the Spanish several hundred years ago. While there is little or no controversy over the possibility of the other things listed in **Micah 5:8-15** (e.g. *beasts of the forest, flocks of sheep, cities, witchcrafts, soothsayers, graven images, and groves*) existing in the Americas during Book of Mormon times, the existence of *horses* and *chariots* has been disputed.

As reviewed in Part 1, the Book of Mormon provides a straightforward reason for why we can expect to find little to no evidence of *horses* and *chariots* in the archeological record of

---

<sup>1</sup> III Nephi 9:50-59 & 9:98-106 with III Nephi 7:1-45, 8:27-75, 9:46-106, 10:1-41, 11:1-33, 12:1-6 & 13:1-62

<sup>2</sup> cf. III Nephi 10:1-31 with III Nephi 9:50-59 & 9:98-106 & D&C 17:1a-6g & D&C 2:6a-6e; cf. Helaman 5:6-30 with Alma 7:24-45 & Helaman 3:18-30 ; see also I Nephi 7:22 & Moroni 10:28

<sup>3</sup> III Nephi 2:96-109, III Nephi 10:30-32, III Nephi 11:1, III Nephi 12:1-6, III Nephi 13:1-3, etc. with III Nephi 9:99-104; cf. Words of Mormon 1:4-13 with I Nephi 2:4-6, I Nephi 5:225-232 & Jacob 1:1-4

<sup>4</sup> Deuteronomy 18:9-14 & Deuteronomy 18:15-19 with Acts 3:20-26, III Nephi 9:58-64 & D&C 1:3a-e

the Americas. Although this reason is discussed to some depth in this first part of the study, the main purpose of this initial series of discussions is not simply to develop and expound upon this reason. The main purpose of Part 1 is to establish a sound basis for taking Jesus' teaching on [Micah 5:8-15](#) seriously.

To establish this sound basis, Part 1 begins by demonstrating the likelihood that Jesus spoke to a people who were quite familiar with *horses* and *chariots*. If they were not familiar with either of these, could they have grasped the impact that losing *horses* and *chariots* (in our case, cars and trucks) would have on a nation like this *Gentile* nation? Unless they had relied upon *horses* and *chariots* themselves in some meaningful and practical manner, the Book of Mormon people simply would not have comprehended the severity of the judgments revealed in Micah's prophecy. Consequently, neither could they have taken Jesus as seriously as He intended about this prophecy.

This is true for us as well. If we doubt the integrity of the Book of Mormon regarding *horses* and *chariots*, we will likely fail to grasp the overall impact that the coming judgments spoken of by Jesus will have on our nation. Losing one's primary source of transportation would severely cripple our society just as it would any civilization. Those who doubt the accounts of *horses* and *chariots* in the Nephite records will likely end up dismissing these warnings. But those who recognize that we have reason to believe their record concerning *horses* and *chariots*, will likely also recognize our need as individuals and as a nation to take [Micah 5:8-15](#), as taught by Jesus, seriously.

For a final note of introduction, these several series of discussions can be readily kept in perspective by keeping in mind that the Book of Mormon is an abridgment of *sacred records*.<sup>5</sup> It is not a comprehensive or even a summary of the secular history of the ancient people now all called Lamanites. This means that any mention of *horses* and *chariots* which was included in the text is part of a sacred narrative, not merely a historical statement.

---

<sup>5</sup> e.g. [I Nephi 2:1-6](#), [I Nephi 2:93-99](#), [I Nephi 3:1](#), [I Nephi 5:227-229](#), [Jacob 1:1-8](#), etc.

## PART 1: Horses and Chariots Among Lehi's Posterity

The underlying intent of this first section is to show why the people of the Book of Mormon would have readily related to and understood Jesus' teaching about *horses* being *cut off* and *chariots* being *destroyed*. In studying why *horses* and *chariots* were lost to them in just four generations after Jesus ministered to them in person, we will gain valuable insight into how these events foreshadowed the reason and manner in which Micah's prophecy will be fulfilled among the *Gentiles* in these latter days.<sup>6</sup>

### Having Dwelt at Jerusalem in All His Days

According to the words of Christ, the *remnant of Jacob* that will fulfill Micah's prophecy will include descendants of Lehi. Who was Lehi? He was a true child of Abraham by lineage and by faith. Lehi was of the tribe of Joseph, the son of Jacob (Israel), by way of Joseph's oldest son Manasseh.<sup>7</sup> Being originally from Jerusalem,<sup>8</sup> Lehi and his family lived under the law of Moses as citizens of the kingdom of Judah,<sup>9</sup> the southern kingdom of the house of Israel.<sup>10</sup> Thus, he and his family were *Jews*.<sup>11</sup>

Lehi was also a descendent of Abraham by faith.<sup>12</sup> By living by faith just as Abraham had many generations before him, Lehi was a child of Abraham according to the promises of God to Abraham.<sup>13</sup> Specifically, like Abraham, he believed God when He promised to give him and his posterity a new land for their inheritance.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, when God called Lehi to separate himself and his family from the city of his birth and to travel to a distant land, Lehi, like Abraham, *obeyed* God's word without hesitation.<sup>15</sup>

Because Lehi and his family lived in Jerusalem around 600 BC, they also had a firsthand knowledge of the *horses* and *chariots* that were a part of everyday life there and in the surrounding regions. References to *chariots* in the Book of Mormon reflect this firsthand knowledge. It was a practical knowledge as evidenced by the several accounts of *horses* and *chariots* Mormon included in his abridgment of their *sacred records* containing the gospel of Jesus Christ.<sup>16</sup>

This knowledge was also carried forward to future generations by the scriptures they carried with them out of Jerusalem. Through *the plates of brass*, the *Nephites* had Moses' account of

---

<sup>6</sup> III Nephi 9:99-106 & III Nephi 10:1-31 with Helaman 1:51,52, Helaman 2:142-166 & Ether 3:94-102

<sup>7</sup> I Nephi 1:164-168 with Alma 8:3

<sup>8</sup> I Nephi 1:2-32 & I Nephi 2:8-11 with Joshua 17:1-18

<sup>9</sup> cf. I Nephi 1:116-119 with I Nephi 5:98,99

<sup>10</sup> cf. I Kings 12 (I Kings 11:28-43) with Isaiah 11:12,13, Jeremiah 31:31-34 & Ezekiel 37:22

<sup>11</sup> II Nephi 12:81 & II Nephi 15:9 with I Nephi 1:1, I Nephi 1:3, I Nephi 1:61,168, I Nephi 1:158-168, I Nephi 4:14-29, I Nephi 6:5-56, etc.

<sup>12</sup> cf. II Nephi 12:77,78 with Romans 2:28,29

<sup>13</sup> Galatians 3:7-9,29 & Romans 4:16-18 with Hebrews 11:8-19 and with I Nephi 1:18-28 & I Nephi 2:41-92

<sup>14</sup> I Nephi 1:149-157 with I Nephi 1:18-28

<sup>15</sup> II Nephi 2:1-21 with Genesis 11 to Genesis 22 & Hebrews 11:8-19

<sup>16</sup> e.g. Alma 12:75-85 & III Nephi 2:29-31

Pharaoh and his army which was equipped with *horses* and *chariots*.<sup>17</sup> The prophecies of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and others also served to provide an ever-present awareness of *horses* and *chariots* throughout their generations for roughly 1000 years – from Lehi and his son Nephi up to the days of Mormon (a direct descendant of Nephi<sup>18</sup>) and his son Moroni.<sup>19</sup>

It is not surprising then to read in Mormon's abridgment – as stated in a somewhat matter-of-fact way – that Lehi's posterity made use of *chariots* drawn by *horses* after their arrival in Joseph's land.<sup>20</sup> So why is there little evidence of *horses* and *chariots* found in the archeological records of the Americas, the lands<sup>21</sup> Lehi and his posterity came to occupy after leaving Jerusalem? <sup>22</sup> Mormon's abridgment of their *sacred records* gives us glimpses of why we today should anticipate finding little to no evidence of artifacts of *horses* and *chariots* in the Americas related to Lehi's posterity.

Briefly summarized, many people lived among the wicked part of the *Lamanites* who hated the *Nephites* and wanted to kill them and to destroy their records.<sup>23</sup> Their hatred was perpetuated by longstanding traditions of their fathers who claimed Nephi (Lehi's son) had robbed their fathers (Laman and Lemuel) and usurped their authority to rule over the people.<sup>24</sup> As reported by Moroni, their destructive intent to eliminate their brethren, the *Nephites*, was finally realized not long after AD 400. At that time, the *Nephites* became *extinct* as a people and their civilization was brought to an abrupt end.<sup>25</sup>

*Mormon 4:1-5 – Behold I, Moroni, do finish the record of my father Mormon. Behold, I have but few things to write, which things I have been commanded of my father. And now it came to pass that after the great and tremendous battle at Cumorah, behold, the Nephites who had escaped into the country southward, were hunted by the Lamanites, until they were all destroyed; and my father also was killed by them; and I, even remain alone to write the sad tale of the destruction of my people. But behold, they are gone, and I fulfill the commandment of my father. And whether they will slay me, I know not; therefore I will write and hide up the records in the earth, and whither I go it mattereth not. Behold, my father hath made this record, and he hath written the intent thereof.*

Thankfully, God preserved original sets of their records according to the faith and obedience of the *righteous* among them and for a wise purpose known to Himself.<sup>26</sup> This included Mormon's abridgment of the *sacred records* of the *Nephites* which were retained to be revealed

---

<sup>17</sup> cf. I Nephi 1:99-103 & Exodus 14:9 with Helaman 3:43-46, I Nephi 1:116-118, Mosiah 1:1-12 & Alma 17:37

<sup>18</sup> Mormon 1:6 & Mormon 4:17 with III Nephi 2:102

<sup>19</sup> II Nephi 8:21-27 & Isaiah 2:5-11; cf. Mormon 3:6-14, Mormon 4:7,8 & Moroni 10:1 with I Nephi 3:2-5; cf. Jeremiah 17:21-25, Jeremiah 22:1-5, etc. with I Nephi 1:158-163 & II Nephi 11:5,6

<sup>20</sup> Alma 12:74-85, Alma 12:182-189 & III Nephi 2:29-31; cf. II Nephi 2:1-12, Jacob 3:44-48 & Ether 6:4-13 with Ezekiel 17:21-24 & Genesis 49:22-26

<sup>21</sup> e.g. D&C 27:3a-d & D&C 54:2a-3 with D&C 2:6a-e, D&C 3:10e-12, D&C 17:2c-g, etc.

<sup>22</sup> Question: Other than recorded histories, do archeological artifacts of Spanish horses and *chariots* exist from when they brought horses to the Americas from the European continent several centuries ago?

<sup>23</sup> II Nephi 11:86, Enos 1:22 & Mormon 3:7 with II Nephi 11:86,87, Jacob 1:14, Helaman 2:142 & Mormon 1:43

<sup>24</sup> Mosiah 6:44-53 with Mosiah 1:7,8, Alma 12:21-27, Alma 14:1-47, etc.

<sup>25</sup> e.g. Mormon 4:1-12 & Moroni 1:1,2 with I Nephi 3:121-134, Alma 21:9-15, etc.; see also Alma 6:12-14, etc.

<sup>26</sup> cf. II Nephi 11:38-48 & Enos 1:23-28 with Ether 5:6-13; see also Moroni 1:1-4 & Mormon 4:1-9 with Words of Mormon 1:1-3, Moroni 9:23-28; Alma 17:31-44, I Nephi 2:99; D&C 45:2a-h with D&C 83:8b

in these latter days.<sup>27</sup> Through these special records, we have eyewitness accounts of the destruction of the *Nephite* civilization by the *Lamanites* and why their downfall decisively altered the archeological record forever.

### **A Speedy Destruction Cometh Unto My People**

In his abridgment of the *Nephite* sacred records, Mormon included *an abridgment from the plates of Nephi*, the son of Lehi.<sup>28</sup> From this abridgment we learn that Lehi and his family lived in Jerusalem at a time when the Lord raised up *many prophets* to warn the people of the city. This was around 600 BC.

According to these prophecies, *the great city Jerusalem* would be *destroyed* and its inhabitants would be killed or carried (*swept*) out of the land of their inheritance as captives of Babylon if they failed to repent.<sup>29</sup> These warnings were given in the first year of the reign of Zedekiah, the king of Judah, and at a time when the prophet Jeremiah was cast into a prison.<sup>30</sup>

Lehi himself was called of God to warn his people (the people of Jerusalem) of the impending judgments that were to come upon the city and its inhabitants for their refusal to repent and return to God.<sup>31</sup> In the wake of these coming devastations, he knew that Jerusalem and the surrounding land would become desolate.<sup>32</sup> Therefore, upon being warned to leave Jerusalem for their safety, Lehi and his family quickly and quietly departed into the wilderness. Along with the necessary provisions, they took with them *the records of the Jews on the plates of brass*, which included, among other writings, *the five books of Moses* and the prophecies of Isaiah and *many* of the prophecies of Jeremiah.<sup>33</sup>

From his own prophecies and those of the other prophets of his time, Lehi had a personal, firsthand knowledge that the people of Jerusalem would be slain and swept out of their lands by an invading army.<sup>34</sup> Lehi was not just given a warning about the people of Jerusalem being removed from their lands, however. He was also warned about his own posterity once they arrived in the new land.<sup>35</sup> They too would be destroyed and/or swept off the lands of their inheritance if they hardened themselves and transgressed against God as had the people of Jerusalem. Having witnessed Jerusalem's judgment in a vision,<sup>36</sup> Lehi would have instantly comprehended the seriousness of the Lord's warning concerning his own posterity.

Because of the Lord's warning concerning his posterity, Lehi admonished his sons to his dying day to choose life by obeying the Lord's commandments.<sup>37</sup> Only in this way could they

---

<sup>27</sup> Moroni 10:1-30 with Moroni 1:1-4

<sup>28</sup> Words of Mormon 1:4-13 with I Nephi 5:225-229

<sup>29</sup> I Nephi 1:3-12 with Jeremiah 20:3-5 & Jeremiah 21:1-7

<sup>30</sup> I Nephi 1:3 & I Nephi 2:22 with Jeremiah 37:1-16

<sup>31</sup> I Nephi 1:3-25

<sup>32</sup> Jeremiah 25:4-11 with Daniel 9:1,2

<sup>33</sup> I Nephi 1:157-174 with I Nephi 2:22

<sup>34</sup> Jeremiah 6:1-30, Jeremiah 20:1-6, Jeremiah 21:5-14, etc. with I Nephi 1:11,12 & Helaman 3:54-59

<sup>35</sup> II Nephi 1:18-34 with I Nephi 1:4-12 & II Nephi 1:3-5 & Ether 1:30-35

<sup>36</sup> I Nephi 1:4-12

<sup>37</sup> II Nephi 1:122-128 with I Nephi 2:86-91 & II Nephi 1:18-21

expect to *prosper* in the land. Otherwise, they would be *cut off* from the Lord's presence and eventually be driven from the lands of their inheritance.

After arriving in the new land and following his death, Lehi's family was soon split into two major groups or factions, the Nephites and the Lamanites. This division revealed who would obey the Lord from those who would not. The divide was made obvious when the Lord warned Nephi to flee from his older brothers for his safety and to take with him all who would be led by the Spirit of the Lord.<sup>38</sup>

This division followed a pattern the Lord established by instructing His people to separate themselves from the wicked. It was the same instruction that led Lehi to leave Jerusalem for a new land.<sup>39</sup> It was also repeated on other occasions during the history of Lehi's posterity, including in the days of Mosiah<sup>40</sup> and of Alma.<sup>41</sup> Such divisions were not unlike when the Lord led the Jaredites out from among the wicked at the Tower of Babel, or when He will call His people out of the Babylon of these latter days.<sup>42</sup> At such times, the Lord leads the faithful away from the wicked so He might bless and prosper the *more righteous*<sup>43</sup> in the land into which He takes them.

Soon after Lehi and his family departed Jerusalem, his son Nephi was given a vision concerning the warning given to his father Lehi. Nephi was shown that his people (those called *Nephites*) would suffer a final and complete destruction by the Lamanites that would occur many generations in the future.<sup>44</sup> This destruction would be *speedy* and devastating, one from which they would not recover. But what could bring about such a *speedy* destruction? According to the vision, it would come when his people chose *works of darkness rather than light* by yielding to Satan.<sup>45</sup>

**II Nephi 11:74-76** – *And when these things shall have passed away, a **speedy destruction cometh unto my people**; for, notwithstanding the pains of my soul, I have seen it; wherefore, I know that it shall come to pass; And they sell themselves for nought; for, for the reward of their pride, and their foolishness, they shall reap destruction; For **because they yield unto the devil, and choose works of darkness rather than light**; therefore they must go down to hell, for the Spirit of the Lord will not always strive with man.*

At the time this *speedy* destruction finally came upon them, they had been overrun by the wickedness promoted by a secret band of *robbers* who had *spread over all the face of the land*.<sup>46</sup> It came by way of their brethren the *Lamanites* and by *Nephite dissenters* who were

---

<sup>38</sup> II Nephi 4:7-18

<sup>39</sup> I Nephi 1:78-81

<sup>40</sup> Omni 1:19-23

<sup>41</sup> Mosiah 9:1-72

<sup>42</sup> Ether 1:16-30 & Revelation 18:1-5

<sup>43</sup> e.g. III Nephi 4:41-75 with III Nephi 8:8

<sup>44</sup> I Nephi 3:96-134 & I Nephi 3:176-205 & I Nephi 4:5,6. Note: The focus of the present study is on the destruction of the *Nephite* civilization around AD 400, not on subsequent devastations to the peoples of the Americas by later European conquests.

<sup>45</sup> IV Nephi 1:26-59 with Mosiah 13:35-38

<sup>46</sup> IV Nephi 1:53-55

motivated by hate and their desire for power and wealth.<sup>47</sup> A man named Zeniff helps us understand why the *Lamanites hated the Nephites* and sought to destroy them.

#### Mosiah 6:44-53

*Now, the Lamanites knew nothing concerning the Lord,<sup>48</sup> nor the strength of the Lord; therefore they depended upon their own strength. Yet they were a strong people, as to the strength of men; they were a wild, and ferocious, and a bloodthirsty people, believing in the tradition of their fathers, which is this: Believing that they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem, because of the iniquities of their fathers, and that they were wronged in the wilderness by their brethren; and they were also wronged, while crossing the sea.*

*And again: that they were wronged while in the land of their first inheritance, after they had crossed the sea; And all this, because that Nephi was more faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord; therefore he was favored of the Lord, for the Lord heard his prayers and answered them, and he took the lead of their journey in the wilderness. And his brethren were wroth with him, because they understood not the dealings of the Lord;*

*They were also wroth with him upon the waters, because they hardened their hearts against the Lord. And again: they were wroth with him when they had arrived to the promised land, because they said that he had taken the ruling of the people out of their hands; and they sought to kill him. And again: they were wroth with him, because he departed into the wilderness as the Lord had commanded him, and took the records which were engraven on the plates of brass; for they said that he robbed them.*

*And thus they have taught their children, that they should hate them, and that they should murder them, and that they should rob and plunder them, and do all they could to destroy them; therefore, they have an eternal hatred towards the children of Nephi.*

The *Lamanites' hatred* and determination to destroy the *Nephites* and their records was manifested most forcibly by *dissenters* from the *Nephites* who united with the *Lamanites* and adopted many of their wicked traditions.<sup>49</sup> They became *worse* in terms of the hardness of their hearts and in their wickedness compared to the actual descendants of Laman and Lemuel.<sup>50</sup> Consequently, when the Spirit of the Lord ceased *striving*<sup>51</sup> with the *Nephites*, everything left unprotected by God was exposed to the wrath of everyone then called *Lamanites*, i.e. primarily those who had an *eternal hatred* for their brethren.<sup>52</sup>

Equipped with this *eternal hatred* – the hatred born of their traditions and the temptations and deceptions of the devil<sup>53</sup> – the *Lamanites* did not simply defeat the *Nephites* in their last great war shortly after AD 400; they annihilated the *Nephites* as described by Mormon.

---

<sup>47</sup> I Nephi 1:57,58, I Nephi 3:128-130 & II Nephi 4:40,41; Alma 21:119-122 with Alma 23:1-29 & Alma 25:16-26; Moroni 9:12 with Mormon 1:24

<sup>48</sup> cf. Mosiah 6:44 with John 8:44 & Genesis 3:7

<sup>49</sup> Alma 14:56-72, Alma 21:121-127, Helaman 2:35-41, etc. with Alma 1: 102-117 & Alma 12:17-27

<sup>50</sup> Alma 21:121-122 with Alma 1:102,103 & Alma 1:117-120

<sup>51</sup> II Nephi 11:74-76 with Mormon 2:44-48

<sup>52</sup> II Nephi 11:73-77, Ether 1:31-22, Moroni 1:2 with Mosiah 6:53; see also D&C 3:2a-6e with D&C 2:6a-6e

<sup>53</sup> III Nephi 5:29-31 & Mormon 2:23 with D&C 3:3b-f, D&C 46:4a-b & Galatians 5:14-21

### Mormon 3:9-23

*And it came to pass that my people, with their wives and their children, did now behold the armies of the Lamanites marching towards them; and with that awful fear of death which fills the breasts of all the wicked, did they wait to receive them.*

*And it came to pass that they came to battle against us, and every soul was filled with terror, because of the greatness of their numbers.*

*And it came to pass that they did fall upon my people with the sword, and with the bow, and with the arrow, and with the ax, and with all manner of weapons of war.*

*And it came to pass that my men were hewn down, yea, even my ten thousand who were with me; and I fell wounded in the midst; and they passed by me that they did not put an end to my life.*

*And when they had gone through and hewn down all my people save it were twenty and four of us, (among whom was my son Moroni,)*

*And we having survived the dead of our people, did behold on the morrow, when the Lamanites had returned unto their camps, from the top of the hill Cumorah, the ten thousand of my people who were hewn down, being led in the front by me; and we also beheld the ten thousand of my people who were led by my son Moroni.*

*And behold, the ten thousand of Gidgiddonah had fallen, and he also in the midst; and Lama had fallen with his ten thousand; and Gilgal had fallen with his ten thousand; and Limhah had fallen with his ten thousand; and Jeneum had fallen with his ten thousand; and Cumenihah, and Moronihah, and Antionum, and Shiblom, and Shem, and Josh, had fallen with their ten thousand each.*

*And it came to pass that there were ten more who did fall by the sword, with their ten thousand each; yea, even all my people, save it were those twenty and four who were with me, and also a few who had escaped into the south countries, and a few who had deserted over unto the Lamanites, had fallen.*

*And their flesh, and bones, and blood lay upon the face of the earth, being left by the hands of those who slew them, to moulder upon the land, and to crumble and to return to their mother earth.*

*And my soul was rent with anguish, because of the slain of my people, and I cried, O ye fair ones, how could ye have departed from the ways of the Lord! O ye fair ones, how could ye have rejected that Jesus, who stood with open arms to receive you!*

*Behold, if ye had not done this, ye would not have fallen. But behold, ye are fallen, and I mourn your loss.*

*O ye fair sons and daughters, ye fathers and mothers, ye husbands and wives, ye fair ones, how is it that ye could have fallen!*

*But behold, ye are gone, and my sorrows can not bring your return; and the day soon cometh that your mortal must put on immortality, and these bodies which are now mouldering in corruption, must soon become incorruptible bodies;*

*And then ye must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, to be judged according to your works; and if it so be that ye are righteous, then are ye blessed with your fathers who have gone before you.*

*O that ye had repented before **this great destruction** had come upon you. But behold, ye are gone, and the Father, yea, the eternal Father of heaven knoweth your state; and he doeth with you according to his justice and mercy.*

In carrying out *this great destruction*, the *Lamanites* would have expressed their hatred against everything prized by the *Nephites* – not just their lives, but all copies of their scriptures and historical records that they could readily find and destroy.<sup>54</sup> This likely included such things as cherished monuments of their civilization, e.g. artwork, glyphs, etc. As such, their bitterness and determination to destroy the *Nephite* civilization served to limit what artifacts from that period of Nephite history remained in the land.

### **Left to Wander Whithersoever They Can for Food**

What happened to their *chariots* and the *horses* that pulled them? Why are so few artifacts presently available to confirm that *chariots* and *horses* existed among Lehi's posterity? Besides the wanton destruction by the *Lamanites*, a famine sprang up during and immediately following the *speedy* destruction of the *Nephite* civilization. This famine, I believe, became a major factor that led to the disappearance of their *horses*. Food supplies became scarce owing to the breakdown of their civilization – not just in the days and months that followed their extensive, massive battles, but for years to come.<sup>55</sup>

Alma, the son of Alma, prophesied of this *famine*, testifying to his son Helaman of the judgments of God that would befall the *Nephites* because of *unbelief* and their choosing *works of darkness and lasciviousness, and all manner of iniquities*.<sup>56</sup> Instead of choosing to repent of their sins when the word was preached, Alma prophesied they would *sin against the great light and knowledge* that God had given them, even until the *Nephites* were no more.

*Alma 21:9-15 – ... Behold, I perceive that this very people, the Nephites, according to the spirit of revelation which is in me, in four hundred years from the time that Jesus Christ shall manifest himself unto them, shall dwindle in unbelief; **Yea, and then shall they see wars and pestilences, yea, famines and bloodshed, even until the people of Nephi shall become extinct**; Yea, and this because they shall dwindle in unbelief, and fall into the works of darkness and lasciviousness, and all manner of iniquities; Yea, I say unto you, that because they shall sin against so great light and knowledge; yea, I say unto you, that from that day, even the fourth generation shall not all pass away, before this great iniquity shall come; And when that great day cometh, behold, the time very soon cometh that those who are now, or the seed of those who are now numbered among the people of the Nephites, shall no more be numbered among the people of Nephi; But whosoever remaineth, and is not destroyed in that great and dreadful day, shall be numbered among the Lamanites, and shall become like unto them, all, save it be a few, who shall be called the disciples of the Lord; And them*

---

<sup>54</sup> cf. *Enos 1:19-22* & *Mormon 3:7* with *Alma 10:42-88* & *Alma 21:121*

<sup>55</sup> cf. *Mormon 3:9-17* with *Moroni 9:15-17*; cf. *I Nephi 3:128-134* & *Mormon 2:44,45* with *I Nephi 4:16-29*

<sup>56</sup> *Alma 21:7-15* with *I Nephi 1:30-39*, *II Nephi 11:74-76*, *Mosiah 13:36-55*, *Alma 8:28-34*, & *Helaman 4:52*

*shall the Lamanites pursue, even until they shall become extinct. And now, because of iniquity, this prophecy shall be fulfilled.*

Samuel the Lamanite likewise spoke of the *famine* that would come upon the *Nephites* in just four generations from his generation, saying:

**Helaman 5:10-13** – *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, who 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.*

When these judgments finally came upon them, the *Nephites* refused to heed the preaching of the prophets of God to repent and return to Him.<sup>57</sup> Consequently, the prophecies were fulfilled with the judgments of God coming fully upon them by way of *the sword, with famine, and with pestilence*.<sup>58</sup> Here is how Mormon summarized the depravity of the *Lamanites* and his people, the *Nephites*, and how they even resorted to barbaric cannibalism.

**Moroni 9:7-22**

*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 they had done this thing, they did murder them in a most cruel manner, torturing their bodies even unto death; and after 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.*

---

<sup>57</sup> cf. **Moroni 8:31-34 & Mormon 1:65-67** with **Ether 4:112-114**

<sup>58</sup> cf. **Mormon 1:34-41 & Mormon 2:26,27** with **Alma 21:7-16, Helaman 4:48-73 & Helaman 5:6-12**

*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 who 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 can not 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 can not 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 can not recommend them unto God lest he should smite me.*

At the start of his account of his own life and ministry, Mormon noted that in his generation *the whole face of the land ... [was] covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea.*<sup>59</sup> The sudden<sup>60</sup> destruction of a large portion of this once thriving population would have led to a colossal failure of their societal and economic infrastructure, rendering it incapable of supporting them as it once had. In turn, this collapse would have led to widespread famine and death throughout the land.<sup>61</sup> Consequently, their society could no longer have been expected to continue functioning, given the great loss of life from the fierce fighting and starvation that had risen rapidly in that generation.<sup>62</sup>

In addition to their food supplies drying up as their society was extinguished, *pestilence* (diseases, plagues) also multiplied as prophesied<sup>63</sup> from the great number of dead bodies left to *moulder and crumble*<sup>64</sup> (decay) unburied in the wake of their savage fighting. Such a dramatic decimation of so many lives in a short period of time would have put even the survival of the remaining *Lamanites* and *Nephite dissenters* into question in the decades and years that followed their final extermination of those called the *Nephites*.

Many of the remaining *horses* and other domesticated animals were likely consumed or died following the devastating collapse caused by their many battles, especially without the

---

<sup>59</sup> Mormon 1:7

<sup>60</sup> II Nephi 11:86-89

<sup>61</sup> cf. Moroni 9:8-22 with III Nephi 2:39-48

<sup>62</sup> cf. Mormon 1:29,30 & Moroni 9:12 with Alma 21:7-15

<sup>63</sup> Alma 21:7-15 & Helaman 5:10-13

<sup>64</sup> Mormon 3:17

maintenance of sufficient quantities of cultivated crops available to harvest. Around 400 years earlier, the *Nephites* had gathered all of their *horses* and herds together when defending themselves against their enemies.<sup>65</sup> Now, roughly 400 years later, Mormon had the *Nephites* do the same, this time for their *final struggle* for their very existence.<sup>66</sup> Any *horses* or other livestock remaining at this point would have been vulnerable to being slaughtered in battles and/or used to feed the warring factions then and in the days, months, and years thereafter.<sup>67</sup>

In turn, *chariots*, as designed, would have become of little use to anyone or to any army without animals to pull them. In addition, because wood was scarce (especially in the land northward<sup>68</sup>), the wooden elements of their *chariots* were likely used for firewood by scavengers looking to cook a meal, to warm themselves, etc. Metal would have been scavenged for fashioning weapons, etc.; and preventing their enemies from using such resources would also have factored into how *chariots* were repurposed or destroyed in the wake of the collapse of the *Nephite* civilization.

### **And He Will Cause Them to Be Scattered and Smitten**

Many centuries have now passed since the extinction of those called *Nephites* and their culture by a malicious and very destructive enemy. Although Mormon's abridgment of the sacred records of the *Nephites* does not include explicit statements about what happened to their *horses* and *chariots*, I believe the foregoing summary realistically and responsibly explains what transpired based on what Mormon observed and participated in – as the leader of the *Nephite* armies and as a man of faith, a minister and prophet, a concerned father, and as the scribe who abridged and secured their sacred records.<sup>69</sup>

Succinctly stated, my understanding is that the destructive manner in which the *Nephite* culture was decimated so completely by *Lamanites* and *Nephite dissenters* is the main reason so little evidence of *horses*, *chariots*, etc., has been found from that period in the archeological records of Central and North America. But the archeological record associated with Lehi's posterity is not limited to the days and events covered by Mormon's abridgment. Mormon and his son Moroni recorded other details that help us understand what would likely have taken place in the years that followed.

Mormon and Moroni reported that when the *Nephite* civilization was destroyed around AD 400, some of the *Nephites* fled south.<sup>70</sup> However, they were hunted by the *Lamanites* and killed. Others had retreated toward the *north countries*, but no mention is made of these *Nephites* being killed like those who fled south.<sup>71</sup> Therefore, one can reasonably conclude that upon the breakdown of their society in Central America, a substantial number of the

---

<sup>65</sup> III Nephi 2:30-33 & III Nephi 2:39-48

<sup>66</sup> See Mormon 3:3 & Mormon 3:7 with Mormon 2:27-31, etc.

<sup>67</sup> e.g. Moroni 1:2

<sup>68</sup> Helaman 2:10 with III Nephi 2:33-36

<sup>69</sup> esp. Mormon 1, Mormon 2 & Mormon 3 with Helaman 2:8-14

<sup>70</sup> Mormon 3:16 & Mormon 4:2

<sup>71</sup> Mormon 1:24 with Mormon 3:16 & Mormon 1:60-62

*Nephites* survived by fleeing to the north in their flight from the *Lamanites*.<sup>72</sup>

At various times in their long history prior to their final destruction, their records show that groups of *Nephites* had migrated northward, presumably into North America, and some so remotely that the authors of the Book of Mormon no longer had any correspondence with them.<sup>73</sup> Now, with battles raging behind them, some of the *Nephites* retreated towards the north countries.<sup>74</sup> While some sought for refuge, other may have sought fresh recruits from among the *Nephites* who had relocated to the north in prior generations.

Those *Nephites* who retreated northward likely had to forage and even fight for whatever food and wood they could find in their flight from the *Lamanite* wars raging to their south. They also likely were not able to carry many supplies with them during this time of *continuous revolution throughout all the face of the land* and the loss of their *civilization*.<sup>75</sup> If *Lamanites* caught up with them at any point, battles likely ensued, costing all involved the loss of precious supplies, including any beasts of burden that had escaped prior devastating conflicts and circumstances.

A swift and forced migration northward (for safety and food) by *Nephites* and *Lamanites* would have fulfilled the warning the Lord had given to Lehi soon after his arrival in the land God had promised to him and his family.<sup>76</sup> As noted previously, the Lord warned Lehi that if his posterity transgressed His commandments and ripened in iniquity, they would be *scattered* and *smitten* by other *nations* which would be *given power to take away* their lands.<sup>77</sup>

**II Nephi 1:23,24 – Behold, I say, If the day shall come that they will reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, their Redeemer and their God, behold, the judgments of him that is just, shall rest upon them; Yea, he will bring other nations unto them, and he will give unto them power, and he will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and he will cause them to be scattered and smitten.**

The judgment conveyed in this prophetic warning was realized roughly 1000 years after Lehi lived. Just as Jerusalem was dealt with *swiftly* when the time of judgment came upon them,<sup>78</sup> so likewise the Lord would deal *swiftly* when bringing His judgments upon Lehi's posterity.

Now all called *Lamanites* after his firstborn son, the remaining people who sprang from Lehi and Ishmael and their families were driven from their lands by their own contentions and by invading nations the Lord promised to bring into the land to displace them.<sup>79</sup> Not having *the plates of brass* or the sacred records written by their ancestors,<sup>80</sup> groups or tribes of Lehi's

---

<sup>72</sup> cf. Mormon 1:24 & Mormon 3:16 with Mormon 1:60-62 & Alma 13:73-81; cf. I Nephi 3:185, I Nephi 4:16, II Nephi 11:81-89, Alma 21:7-15, Helaman 5:108, Ether 1:97, etc. with IV Nephi 40-46

<sup>73</sup> e.g. Alma 30:5-14 with Helaman 2:3-5

<sup>74</sup> Mormon 1:24

<sup>75</sup> Mormon 1:30 & Moroni 9:12

<sup>76</sup> II Nephi 1:23,24 with I Nephi 1:149-151, II Nephi 1:16-19, etc.

<sup>77</sup> cf. II Nephi 1:18-26 & Helaman 3:21-30 with Ether 1:30-33 & Ether 4:112-114

<sup>78</sup> Jeremiah 4:11-14 & Lamentations 4:12-19

<sup>79</sup> II Nephi 1:23,24

<sup>80</sup> cf. I Nephi 1:115-119 with I Nephi 3:128-134, Omni 1:19-34, Mosiah 1:4-8, Alma 17:31-40, etc.

remaining posterity were left to wander in the lands north of their original inheritance for countless generations.<sup>81</sup>

### **Go Unto the Lamanites and Preach My Gospel Unto Them**

Among the scattered remnants of Lehi's posterity (now all called *Lamanites* in Mormon's abridgment), knowledge of their history had mainly been transmitted to succeeding generations through oral traditions and emblematic or pictographic records. While they have sought to preserve their tribal<sup>82</sup> history and traditions for their maintenance among succeeding generations, Lehi's posterity has lacked the records their ancestors once kept. They no longer had the records that contained the Lord's commandments and His teachings<sup>80</sup> which were lost to them at the fall of the *Nephite* civilization.<sup>83</sup> Consequently, they would dwindle in unbelief for many generations thereafter.<sup>84</sup>

The Lord foresaw the time when their records and His gospel (which had been known to their ancestors) would become but a faint or nonexistent recollection of their past.<sup>85</sup> Therefore, He prepared a way for their records to be preserved and eventually restored to them after His judgments pertaining to them would be fulfilled in these latter days, i.e. those judgments the Lord pronounced upon them for their abominations and rejection of the fullness of His gospel.<sup>86</sup>

When the time appointed to recover Lehi's posterity to the truth finally came, the Lord instructed Oliver Cowdery and several of his fellow laborers in *this last kingdom* to travel westward from Fayette, New York, to the eastern border of the Kansas territory to preach the gospel to the *Lamanites* and to *establish* His church among them. In this instruction, Oliver was to accomplish this commandment according to the *power and authority* the Lord had given him in keeping with the scriptures.<sup>87</sup>

*D&C 27:3a-b – And now, behold, I say unto thee [Oliver] that thou shalt **go unto the Lamanites, and preach my gospel unto them; and inasmuch as they receive thy teachings, thou shalt cause my church to be established among them, and thou shalt have revelations, but write them not by way of commandment.***

*D&C 29:2a-c – Behold, I say unto you, Peter, that you shall **take your journey with your brother, Oliver, for the time has come, that it is expedient in me, that you shall open your mouth to declare my gospel; therefore, fear not but give heed unto the words and advice of your brother, which he shall give you. And be you afflicted in all his afflictions, ever lifting up your heart unto me in prayer, and faith, for his and your deliverance; for I have given unto him power to build up my church among the Lamanites.***

---

<sup>81</sup> cf. I Nephi 5:252-257 with I Nephi 3:132-138

<sup>82</sup> cf. III Nephi 3:37-42 with III Nephi 13:41

<sup>83</sup> e.g. Moroni 1:1-4 with Helaman 5:10, IV Nephi 1:57-59, Mormon 2:25, Mormon 3:8, etc.

<sup>84</sup> e.g. I Nephi 3:129-134 with I Nephi 1:110-120 & I Nephi 4:16-29; see also I Nephi 3:185-189.

<sup>85</sup> cf. Book of Mormon Title Page, I Nephi 3:180-205, II Nephi 2:31-48, II Nephi 11:35-44, etc. with II Nephi 11:80-88 & Mormon 4:27-34

<sup>86</sup> cf. I Nephi 4:16-29 with Jacob 2:56-58, Helaman 5:100-105, IV Nephi 1:42, etc.

<sup>87</sup> RLDS Church History Vol 1, p. 179; cf. D&C 6, D&C 8, D&C 16, etc. with I Nephi 1:65 & III Nephi 13:41-62

D&C 31:1a-e – And now concerning my servant **Parley P. Pratt**, behold, I say unto him, that as I live I will that he shall declare **my gospel** and learn of me, and be meek and lowly of heart; and that which I have appointed unto him, is that he shall **go with my servants Oliver Cowdery and Peter Whitmer, Jr., into the wilderness, among the Lamanites; and Ziba Peterson, also, shall go with them, and I myself will go with them and be in their midst**; and I am their Advocate with the Father, and nothing shall prevail. And they shall give heed to that which is written and pretend to no other revelation, and they shall pray always that I may unfold them to their understanding; and they shall give heed unto these words and trifle not, and I will bless them. Amen.

By the time this first mission among the *Lamanites* was completed, Oliver and his companions traveled an estimated 1,500 miles<sup>88</sup> to the west and preached the Lord’s gospel to at least three Native American tribes along the way. The last tribe they met with, just over the western border of the State of Missouri, was the Delaware or Lenape people who had been relocated to eastern Kansas around 1830.<sup>89,90</sup>

“Thus ended our first Indian Mission, in which we had preached the gospel in its fullness, and distributed the record of their forefathers among three tribes, viz.: the Catteraugus Indians, near Buffalo, New York, the Wyandots of Ohio, and the Delawares west of Missouri.”<sup>91</sup>

According to the account of Parley P. Pratt, here is a portion of what Oliver spoke to the Delaware about the Book of Mormon and how their *forefathers* had written this precious book.<sup>92</sup>

“Thousands of moons ago, when the red men's forefathers dwelt in peace and possessed this whole land, the Great Spirit talked with them, and revealed His law and His will, and much knowledge to their wise men and prophets. This they wrote in a Book; together with their history, and the things which should befall their children in the latter days.

“This Book was written on plates of gold, and handed down from father to son for many ages and generations. It was then that the people prospered, and were strong and mighty; they cultivated the earth; built buildings and cities, and abounded in all good things, as the pale faces now do.

“But they became wicked; they killed one another and shed much blood; they killed their prophets and wise men, and sought to destroy the Book. The Great Spirit became angry, and would speak to them no more; they had no more good and wise dreams; no more visions; no more angels sent among them by the Great Spirit; and the Lord commanded Mormon and Moroni, their last wise men and prophets, to hide the Book in the earth, that it might be preserved in safety, and be found and made known in the latter day to the pale faces who should possess the land; that they might again make it known to the

---

<sup>88</sup> RLDS Church History Vol 1, p. 178

<sup>89</sup> One may ask why the Delaware tribe was moved west around 1830, which was away from the church when it was first organized in the east? The answer is straightforward. The Lord was gathering *the Lamanites* to where the New Jerusalem would be built upon Joseph’s land. See *Ether* 6:1-14 along with D&C 42:3a,b,10c,17b,18a-c & D&C 57:1a-1g for more details about the location of the Center Place of Zion, the New Jerusalem.

<sup>90</sup> <http://delawaretribe.org/services-and-programs/historic-preservation/removal-history-of-the-delaware-tribe/>

<sup>91</sup> RLDS Church History Vol 1, p. 183

<sup>92</sup> From RLDS Church History Vol 1, pp. 180-183

red man; in order to restore them to the knowledge of the will of the Great Spirit and to His favor. And if the red man would then receive this Book and learn the things written in it, and do according thereunto, they should be restored to all their rights and privileges; should cease to fight and kill one another; should become one people; cultivate the earth in peace, in common with the pale faces, who were willing to believe and obey the same book, and be good men and live in peace.

“Then should the red men become great, and have plenty to eat and good clothes to wear, and should be in favor with the Great Spirit and be his children, while he would be their Great Father, and talk with them, and raise up prophets and wise and good men amongst them again, who should teach them many things.”

Oliver’s testimony now stands as a faithful and ever-present witness that the people who are called *Lamanites*<sup>93</sup> in Mormon’s abridgment are yet found in our midst in North America, and that they will once again become a beloved people to the Lord, to each other, to all the house of Israel, and eventually to the whole world according to the promises of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and to Joseph.<sup>94</sup>

### **The Nephites Had Taken Possession of All the Northern Parts of the Land**

Archeological findings are corroborating both the sacred records abridged by Mormon and Oliver Cowdery’s testimony to the Native American peoples about their precious record. Many evidences that Lehi’s posterity inhabited portions of both Central America and North America are becoming available. For example, a website titled, *Book of Mormon Geography*,<sup>95</sup> plainly and painstakingly demonstrates how the geographic details included in Mormon’s abridgment of the *Nephite* records accurately describe much of the land and ruins of Central America as it was inhabited during the timeframe covered by this ancient record.<sup>96</sup>

After an exhaustive study of all statements describing directions, distances, place locations, etc., identified in Mormon’s abridgment, the author of this website concluded that “*There is no way that Joseph Smith could have known about the accurate geography that he translated.*”<sup>95</sup> Because the Book of Mormon is an authentic record that contains the eyewitness accounts of its ancient authors, it reveals details originally known only to them.

The analyses presented on the *Book of Mormon Geography* website provide compelling evidence that the Book of Mormon was indeed based on Mormon’s firsthand knowledge of the region in which the *Nephite* civilization rose and fell in Central America. Such assessments have been made by others,<sup>97</sup> each being made possible by the many geographic details included in the book, like the following quote:

---

<sup>93</sup> cf. *Moroni 10:1-8* with *Helaman 2:14*, *Ether 1:97*, etc.

<sup>94</sup> *Ether 6:4-13* with *II Nephi 2:6-12*

<sup>95</sup> <https://sites.google.com/site/bomgeography/>

<sup>96</sup> It will be remembered that Mormon lived after the upheaval of the land which occurred at the time of Jesus Christ’s death (*III Nephi 4:14-17* with *Helaman 5:75-84*). Therefore, the various descriptions of the geography he included in his abridgment of the *Nephite* records were influenced by his knowledge of the land, especially given his military responsibilities and his need to know the battlefields in which he led his people.

<sup>97</sup> Because there are a variety of references that could be used here, this point will be left to the reader to research.

### Alma 13:68-82

*And it came to pass that the king sent a proclamation throughout all the land, amongst all his people who were in all his land, who were in all the regions round about, which was bordering even to the sea, on the east, and on the west, and which was divided from the land of Zarahemla by a narrow strip of wilderness,*

*Which ran from the sea east, even to the sea west, and round about on the borders of the sea-shore, and the borders of the wilderness which was on the north, by the land of Zarahemla, through the borders of Manti, by the head of the river Sidon, running from the east towards the west; and thus were the Lamanites and the Nephites divided.*

*Now the more idle part of the Lamanites lived in the wilderness, and dwelt in tents; and they were spread through the wilderness, on the west, in the land of Nephi:*

*Yea, and also on the west of the land of Zarahemla, in the borders, by the sea-shore, and on the west, in the land of Nephi, in the place of their fathers' first inheritance, and thus bordering along by the sea-shore.*

*And also there were many Lamanites on the east by the sea-shore, whither the Nephites had driven them. And thus the Nephites were nearly surrounded by the Lamanites;*

***Nevertheless the Nephites had taken possession of all the northern parts of the land,*** *bordering on the wilderness, at the head of the river Sidon, from the east to the west, round about on the wilderness side; on the north, even until they came to the land which they called Bountiful.*

*And it bordered upon the land which they called Desolation; it being so far northward, that it came into the land which had been peopled, and been destroyed, of whose bones we have spoken, which was discovered by the people of Zarahemla; it being the place of their first landing. And they came from there up into the south wilderness.*

*Thus the land on the northward was called Desolation, and the land on the southward was called Bountiful; it being the wilderness which is filled with all manner of wild animals of every kind; a part of which had come from the land northward, for food.*

*And now it was only the distance of a day and a half's journey for a Nephite, on the line Bountiful, and the land Desolation, from the east to the west sea;*

*And thus the land of Nephi, and the land of Zarahemla, were nearly surrounded by water; there being a small neck of land between the land northward, and the land southward.*

*And it came to pass that the Nephites had inhabited the land Bountiful, even from the east unto the west sea,*

***And thus the Nephites in their wisdom,*** *with their guards and their armies, had hemmed in the Lamanites on the south, that thereby they should have no more possession on the north, that they might not overrun the land northward;*

*Therefore the Lamanites could have no more possessions only in the land of Nephi, and the wilderness round about.*

***Now this was wisdom in the Nephites;*** *as the Lamanites were an enemy to them, they would not suffer their afflictions on every hand, and also that they might have a country whither they might flee, according to their desires.*

*And now I, having said this, return again to the account of Ammon, and Aaron, Omner, and*

*Himni, and their brethren.*

As stated in the above scripture, it was *wisdom* for the *Nephites* to occupy the northern parts of the land generally inhabited by Lehi's posterity in Central America prior to the final breakdown of their society.<sup>98</sup> Upon the breakdown and loss of their civilization in Central America, some of the *Nephites* would then be in a position to travel into North America in their flight from their wars with the *Lamanites* in Central America. There, they likely could have joined with groups of *Nephites* which had migrated northward at various times in their history prior to their final destruction – some so remotely that their record keepers in Central America no longer had any knowledge about them.<sup>99,100,101</sup>

Notwithstanding the disbursement of Lehi's posterity into tribes, certain of their cultural traditions were evidently retained over the centuries that followed the collapse of the *Nephite* civilization.<sup>102</sup> As an example, the following quote is from an article that references tribal knowledge of *horses* among the Plains Indians and an account of horse-drawn wagons from the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD. This appears significant given the long history of horses found in the *Nephite* records abridged by Mormon.

“According to most leading scholars in history, anthropology and geography, none of the Native Tribes had horses until after Columbus. ‘On the contrary,’ say elders of the Plains Indian Tribes, ‘our ancestors ALWAYS had horses. Indeed, the oldest surviving travel account of an overseas explorer in the American Southwest comes from the Afghani Buddhist Monk, Hui Shen. He sailed to the West Coast of Fu Sang during the 5th century AD. According to the monk, the Native People of Fu Sang (or ancient Mexico) had both horses and wagons.”<sup>103</sup>

Numerous websites on the Internet now feature ancient artifacts that have been found in archeological studies conducted in the Americas.<sup>104</sup> Some include objects with wheels, like wheeled toys.<sup>105</sup> Among these is an intriguing ruin that includes a sophisticated use of the wheel in an ancient engineered mechanism at Chichen Itza.<sup>106</sup> Additionally, the extent to

---

<sup>98</sup> Mormon 1:60-62 with Alma 13:73-81

<sup>99</sup> e.g. Alma 30:5-14 with Helaman 2:3-5

<sup>100</sup> In support of this conclusion, the reader will recall that the several tribes to whom Oliver and his brethren ministered had long dwelt in eastern North America where many ancient manmade mound structures were built, e.g. <http://www.gustavslibrary.com/archaeologicalposters.htm#mounds>.

<sup>101</sup> Given the similarities in the layouts and apparent uses of these structures with those of comparable sites in Central America (though not made from the same building materials), it is likely that at least some if not many of Lehi's posterity built mounds based on a knowledge of the cities their ancestors built prior to their relocation to the north, e.g. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mound\\_Builders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mound_Builders).

<sup>102</sup> e.g. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population\\_history\\_of\\_indigenous\\_peoples\\_of\\_the\\_Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_history_of_indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas)

<sup>103</sup> <https://rtfitchauthor.com/2016/02/20/indian-horses-before-columbus/>

<sup>104</sup> Since there are too many to list, it is left to the reader to further research this topic on his or her own, which can be done with websites like <https://www.mna.inah.gob.mx/> and <http://ancientamerican.com> and others included in related footnotes to this section.

<sup>105</sup> e.g. <https://collections.lacma.org/node/182693> and <https://sapp.uv.mx/catalogomax/en-US/sala/detalles/1225>

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-americas/advanced-engineering-discovered-maya-observatory-chichen-itza-008124>

which Central America was covered by ancient buildings<sup>107</sup> and roadways<sup>108</sup> connecting them are being surveyed and documented with modern technologies like *Light Detection and Ranging* or LIDAR,<sup>109</sup> which is a measurement technology that is being used to map the ruins and unique topography extending over large portions of land in the Americas.<sup>110</sup>

Other evidences of the rise and fall of the *Nephite* civilization are likely to emerge with time. But none of these can or ever will restore or save Lehi's posterity. Like their forebearers, they too must offer the Lord the *sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit*.<sup>111</sup> They too must be *turned* from their *iniquities* by the power and witness of the Word of God according to His Spirit of truth.<sup>112</sup> And if they repent and come to Christ, He promises to baptize them with the Holy Ghost, cleansing and filling their lives with grace and power to become His children.<sup>113</sup>

*II Nephi 7:40-44 – 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 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.*

---

<sup>107</sup> Recall how in *Mormon 1:7* it is recorded that “*the whole face of the land having become covered with buildings, and the people were as numerous almost, as it were the sand of the sea.*”

<sup>108</sup> cf. *III Nephi 4:11* with *Helaman 5:80* (which is also verified indirectly by *III Nephi 10:36*)

<sup>109</sup> <https://phys.org/news/2020-02-modern-technology-reveals-secrets-great.html>

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.extremetech.com/extreme/243639-lidar-used-map-ancient-mayan-superhighway-system>

<sup>111</sup> e.g. *III Nephi 4:41-52* with *I Nephi 4:16-29* & *Omni 1:46,47*

<sup>112</sup> *John 16:7-15* & *I John 5:5-16* with *Acts 3:25,26* & *III Nephi 9:63,64*

<sup>113</sup> cf. *IV Nephi 1:3-21* with *Mosiah 3:1-21* & *John 1:11-18*



## PART 2: The Enemy Is Combined

In this next section, a direct parallel is drawn between the destruction of the Nephite civilization and the pending judgments upon this Gentile nation, the people into whose hands Mormon's abridgment has been placed. After the parallel is drawn, the discussion turns to how Jesus Christ testified that the Lamanites, as *a remnant of Jacob*, will fulfill **Micah 5:8-15** in these latter days.<sup>114</sup> The aim of this next series of discussions is not simply to identify the reason for the downfall of each civilization, but to also clearly understand how we should respond to the *awful situation*<sup>115</sup> that has come upon this land so we might repent and be preserved as the people of God in His kingdom.<sup>116</sup>

### **Gadianton Did Prove the Overthrow ... of the People of Nephi**

Though the *Nephites* built a magnificent civilization over a period of a 1000 years with God's blessings and provisions – as evidenced by the ancient ruins in Central America – their enemies often sought to destroy them and their way of life.<sup>117</sup> Then, as reviewed in Part 1, a *mixture* of Lehi's descendants, now all called *Lamanites*, finally annihilated the *Nephite* civilization just four generations after Jesus had ministered to them in person.<sup>118</sup>

But it was not the *Lamanites* or their hatred and wickedness that ultimately destroyed the *Nephites* and their civilization. The *Nephites* were overthrown by their *pride* and hardness of heart toward God which was evidenced by their failure to keep the Lord's commandments and thereby keep themselves from *abominations*.<sup>119</sup> As recorded in Mormon's abridgment of their sacred records, the Lord warned the *Nephites* throughout their history of the many ways<sup>120</sup> by which they could bring God's judgments upon themselves to their condemnation.<sup>121</sup> Among these are the following *abominations*:

- Building up churches, but not unto the Lord.<sup>122</sup>
- Afflicting and persecuting others, which comes of pride.<sup>123</sup>
- Practicing polygamy and whoredoms.<sup>124</sup>
- Carrying out secret works of darkness, e.g. secret murders and abominations.<sup>125</sup>
- Committing harlotry, shedding innocent blood, and denying the Holy Ghost.<sup>126</sup>

---

<sup>114</sup> III Nephi 9:50-59 & 9:98-106 with III Nephi 9:99-106 & III Nephi 10:1-31

<sup>115</sup> cf. Ether 3:98 with Alma 16:231

<sup>116</sup> cf. D&C 36:12c-12g with D&C 38:6a-6d & D&C 83:7a-8c

<sup>117</sup> e.g. Mosiah 6:15, Alma 12:21-27, III Nephi 2:1-12, etc. with I Nephi 3:134, Mormon 2:44-47, etc.

<sup>118</sup> IV Nephi 1:29-45, with I Nephi 3:176-205, Alma 21:7-15, Helaman 5:10-13, Ether 6:1-13, etc.

<sup>119</sup> cf. Alma 7:13-45 with I Nephi 1:53-56, II Nephi 1:18-26, Omni 1:8,9, Mosiah 1:53-60, III Nephi 1:33-57, Moroni 8:31-34, etc.

<sup>120</sup> cf. Mosiah 2:48 with Matthew 15:18,19 & Galatians 5:19-21

<sup>121</sup> cf. Alma 22:17-23 with Jacob 2:30-65, Helaman 2:154-162, etc.

<sup>122</sup> II Nephi 12:1-21

<sup>123</sup> Jacob 2:5-28

<sup>124</sup> Jacob 2:30-65

<sup>125</sup> Alma 17:52-64 & III Nephi 2:89

<sup>126</sup> Alma 19:5-14

- Oppressing the poor, persecuting the humble, mocking that which is sacred, denying prophecy and revelation, murdering, plundering, lying, stealing, committing adultery, contentions, dissenting, boasting, etc.<sup>127</sup>
- Uniting with and promoting secret bands, combinations, or societies.<sup>128</sup>
- Sinning against and/or rejecting the gospel; ... pride, lying, deceit, mischief, hypocrisy, murders, priestcraft, whoredom, secret abominations, etc.<sup>129</sup>
- Living as thieves, robbers, murderers, and performing magic art, witchcraft, etc.<sup>130</sup>
- Denying the pure mercies of God.<sup>131</sup>
- Being without civilization.<sup>132</sup>
- Exercising a willfulness of heart in seeking for blood and revenge, etc.<sup>133</sup>

According to Mormon, one of these *abominations* stood out from the rest. When reviewing and abridging their records, Mormon concluded that one man among the *Nephites* was responsible for the downfall of their civilization because of a specific *abomination* he promoted among the *Nephites*.<sup>134</sup> His name was Gadianton.<sup>135</sup>

**Helaman 1:51,52** – *And behold, in the end of this book, ye shall see that this Gadianton did prove the overthrow, yea, almost the entire destruction of the people of Nephi. Behold I do not mean the end of the book of Helaman, but I mean the end of the book of Nephi, from which I have taken all the account which I have written.*

How could one man be singled out as having been responsible for the destruction of so many people, *almost the entire destruction of the people of Nephi*? This Gadianton formed a *secret combination*, called at times a *secret society* or *secret band*, or more revealing, a *band of robbers*.<sup>136</sup> Nephi, the son of Helaman, called that *secret combination* a *great abomination*.<sup>137</sup> Moroni called it the *most abominable* and *wicked* above all *combinations* in the sight of God.<sup>138</sup>

Once he organized this secret order, Gadianton went about with those he recruited to stealthily gain power and wealth by wicked and murderous means at the tragic expense of their fellow countrymen and brethren.<sup>139</sup> The effect of this secret band proved very destructive

---

<sup>127</sup> Helaman 2:44-46 with Helaman 2:161-167

<sup>128</sup> Helaman 3:28-30, Mormon 4:55 & Ether 3:92 with Alma 17:53-59, III Nephi 1:41-57, III Nephi 2:11, etc.

<sup>129</sup> III Nephi 7:34 & III Nephi 14:2

<sup>130</sup> Mormon 1:34-47 with III Nephi 9:102, etc.

<sup>131</sup> Moroni 8:20

<sup>132</sup> Moroni 9:8-12

<sup>133</sup> Moroni 9:20-25

<sup>134</sup> cf. Helaman 3:28-30 (& Ether 3:92) with Helaman 2:150-160; cf. III Nephi 2:89 with Alma 19:5-10

<sup>135</sup> cf. Helaman 2:164-167 with Ether 3:94

<sup>136</sup> Helaman 2:21, Helaman 2:142, Helaman 2:164, Helaman 3:28-30, III Nephi 2:11, IV Nephi 1:50,51, etc.

<sup>137</sup> Helaman 3:28,29

<sup>138</sup> Ether 3:92-94 with Alma 19:4-10; see Mormon 4:1-56 with Helaman 3:1-4 & Ether 4:112-114

<sup>139</sup> Helaman 1:40-49 & Helaman 2:21-30, III Nephi 2:11,12 with Helaman 2:150-156, etc.

to the *Nephites*, not just in the end of their civilization, but for the many generations leading up to their ultimate destruction.<sup>140</sup>

As Nephi plainly states, the Lord does not work through any such means.<sup>141</sup> Said in another way, it was not the Lord who taught or directed Gadianton to form this secret order, for all such orders are an *abomination* to God.<sup>142</sup> It was Satan, rather, who taught Gadianton to pursue riches and power through secret oaths and works of darkness, just as he taught Cain these things in the beginning.<sup>143</sup> Satan's objective in setting up all secret combinations and societies has remained the same from the beginning, to cause misery and to captivate the souls of all those he is able to *overcome* and bring under condemnation through abominations.<sup>144</sup>

At times in their history, members of the secret society formed by Gadianton obtained control of the judgment seats and eventually the whole government.<sup>145</sup> In an effort to keep His people from being destroyed by them, the Lord raised up prophets like Nephi to call them to repentance, warning them of the certain judgments of God that awaited them except they repented and returned unto Him.<sup>146</sup>

*Helaman 3:30 – 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.*<sup>147</sup>

Prior to the final destruction of the *Nephite* civilization, this secret order was overcome on different occasions through the preaching the word of God<sup>148</sup> as well as by warfare.<sup>149</sup> Nevertheless, the time finally came when nothing would stop the hardening of the hearts of the majority of the *Nephites*. As a result, Gadianton's secret order spread across the entire land until everyone, except for the disciples of Jesus Christ, were caught in its snare.

*IV Nephi 1:50-55 – And it came to pass that the wicked part of the people began again to build up the secret oaths and combinations of Gadianton. And also the people who were called the people of Nephi, began to be proud in their hearts, because of their exceeding riches, and became vain, like unto their brethren, the Lamanites. And from this time, the disciples began to sorrow for the sins of the world. And it came to pass that when three hundred years had passed away, both the people of Nephi and the Lamanites had become exceeding wicked one like unto another. **And it came to pass that the robbers of Gadianton did spread over all the face of the land; and there were none that were righteous, save it were the disciples of Jesus.** And gold and silver did they lay up in store in abundance, and did traffic in all manner of traffic.*

---

<sup>140</sup> Helaman 2:142-167, III Nephi 1:37-42, III Nephi 3:40-42, IV Nephi 1:50-55, etc.

<sup>141</sup> II Nephi 11:93-95 with I Nephi 6:22-26; also Ether 3:92,93

<sup>142</sup> Helaman 3:28-30 & Mormon 4:55 with Alma 19:5-10 with III Nephi 2:89

<sup>143</sup> Genesis 5:14-20 with Helaman 2:151-158, I Nephi 3:219-223, II Nephi 7:23-25 & II Nephi 11:93

<sup>144</sup> cf. II Nephi 1:101-103 & D&C 76:3i-4k with II Nephi 1:27 & II Nephi 1:121; cf. I Peter 5:8,9 with James 4:5-12

<sup>145</sup> cf. III Nephi 2:11 with Helaman 2:164-167, Helaman 3:3-5, III Nephi 4:36,37, IV Nephi 1:50-55, etc.

<sup>146</sup> e.g. Helaman 5:85-90 with Ether 4:112

<sup>147</sup> cf. II Nephi 1:23-26 with Helaman 3:21-30

<sup>148</sup> Helaman 2:164 & III Nephi 2:86-89 with Alma 16:82

<sup>149</sup> e.g. III Nephi 2:72-89

### **The Spirit of the Lord Hath Ceased Striving With Them**

In the time leading up to their final destruction, Mormon attempted multiple ways to stop the spread of this *secret combination* and its many *abominations*, but the people became even more hardened against *the word of God*.<sup>150</sup>

**Moroni 9:4,5** – *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 towards another; and they thirst after blood and revenge continually.*

Although Mormon prayed mightily to the Lord for the rescue of his people, he tells us that his prayer for them was *without faith*.<sup>151</sup>

**Mormon 1:77-79** – *Behold, I had led them, notwithstanding their wickedness, I had led them many times to battle, and had loved them, according to the love of God which was in me, with all my heart; And my soul had been poured out in prayer unto my God all the day long, for them; **nevertheless, it was without faith**, because of the hardness of their hearts. And thrice have I delivered them out of the hands of their enemies, and they have repented not of their sins.*

Since faith is *the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen*, Mormon has explained here that he was unable to obtain *assurance* and *evidence* from the Lord – through the *Comforter* or *the Spirit of truth*<sup>152</sup> – for his *hope* that his people would be restored to God and His blessings.<sup>153</sup>

Recall that *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*.<sup>154</sup> Put another way then, by saying his prayer for them was without faith, Mormon is saying *the Good Shepherd* did not speak His *word of assurance* to Mormon.<sup>155</sup> He did not promise or covenant with Mormon that the *Nephites* would not be destroyed. Therefore, Mormon was left without *hope* for his people, and thus his prayer for them was without *faith*.<sup>156</sup>

Why exactly did God not *answer* Mormon's prayer by granting him the desire of his heart for his people? Was not Mormon a righteous man, one who had been faithful unto the Lord? An interchange between Jesus Christ and Mormon's son, Moroni, gives us insight into the principle that was responsible for Mormon writing that his prayer for his people was without faith.<sup>157</sup>

---

<sup>150</sup> cf. **Moroni 9:3-6** with **Moroni 7:1-53**, **Mormon 1:22-89**, etc.

<sup>151</sup> **Moroni 1:78** with **Mormon 1:14-18**

<sup>152</sup> The Comforter is the Spirit of truth, whom Jesus called the Holy Ghost (**John 14:15-17,26**).

<sup>153</sup> **Hebrews 11:1** with **John 14:15-26**

<sup>154</sup> **Romans 10:16** with **John 1:14-18**

<sup>155</sup> **Moroni 7:20-43** with **Moroni 7:14-20** & **Moroni 10:10-14**; cf. **Moroni 10:27** with **I Corinthians 13:1-13**

<sup>156</sup> cf. **II Nephi 15:8-10** with **Moroni 7:45-49** & **Moroni 10:14-30**; cf. **Alma 3:92-108** & **Helaman 3:18-23** with **John 10:1-30**

<sup>157</sup> **Ether 5:22-41**

In this interchange between Jesus Christ and Moroni, Moroni had expressed concern that the Gentiles would mock their records because of the *weakness* of their writing.<sup>158</sup> In response to Moroni's stated concern, the Lord replied frankly that *fools mock, but they will mourn*.<sup>159</sup> The Lord continued by saying His grace *is sufficient for the meek* such that the *meek* would not *take advantage of their weakness*.

To this end, then, the Lord promised Moroni that He would show the Gentiles their *weakness* so they might become *meek* before Him.<sup>160</sup> Those who would then become meek before Him, the Lord also promised to bless with wisdom and understanding.<sup>161</sup> Specifically, the Lord promised to show the Gentiles that *faith, hope, and charity* bring to Him *the fountain of all righteousness*, and it would be through these three great *gifts* of His grace<sup>162</sup> that the Lord would prepare the way for the Gentiles to also bear Him *the fruit of righteousness* (i.e. the fruit of His kingdom)<sup>163</sup> and thereby receive their inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.<sup>164</sup>

This led Moroni to ask the Lord to give the Gentiles *grace* that they might have *charity*.<sup>165</sup> In reply, the Lord commended Moroni for his *faithfulness*, saying that because he had seen his own *weakness*, the Lord would make him *strong, even unto sitting down in the place which I [Jesus Christ] had prepared in the mansions of my Father*.<sup>166</sup> In other words, it was sufficient for Moroni to be faithful in keeping the Lord's commandments in this matter and to leave the faith and charity of the Gentiles with the Lord.<sup>167</sup>

Like Moroni and his concern for the Gentiles, it was not Mormon's faith that was in question in his prayer for his people.<sup>168</sup> Rather, it was the faith of the *Nephites* as a whole that was in question.<sup>169</sup> By their own choice, they had allowed Satan to harden their hearts toward the Lord and His servants – including Mormon who had defended them by leading them many times in their defense against their enemies.

This meant the *Nephites* were now *ripe* for destruction.<sup>170</sup> No amount of intercession on Mormon's part could rob God's justice, especially under such conditions.<sup>171</sup> His mercy was not able to prevail over divine justice because of the crimes and abominations of this hardened and unrepentant people who had chosen to join forces with the Gadianton robbers.<sup>172</sup>

---

<sup>158</sup> Ether 5:22-24

<sup>159</sup> Ether 5:27-29

<sup>160</sup> Ether 5:27-29 with I Nephi 3:152-205

<sup>161</sup> e.g. Ether 1:109-117 with I Nephi 3:184-205

<sup>162</sup> cf. Moroni 7:48-53 with I Corinthians 12:31 & I Corinthians 13:1-13

<sup>163</sup> D&C 83:8a-8c & D&C 98:13c-13e with Matthew 21:52-56

<sup>164</sup> John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-26 & Ephesians 5:9 with Romans 14:17 & D&C 98:13d

<sup>165</sup> Ether 5:30-36

<sup>166</sup> Ether 5:36-38 with John 14:1-18 & Romans 5:5; cf. I Nephi 3:63-76 with Moroni 7:49-53

<sup>167</sup> Ether 5:6-32

<sup>168</sup> III Nephi 2:96-109 & Moroni 9:6,27 with Moroni 7:1-53 & Words of Mormon 1:1-12

<sup>169</sup> cf. III Nephi 8:8 with Ether 5:28 & Mormon 1:77-79; I Peter 1:3-9 with I Peter 4:12-14

<sup>170</sup> cf. Alma 8:27-34 with Ether 1:31-33

<sup>171</sup> Alma 19:96-111 with Alma 19:78-80

<sup>172</sup> cf. II Nephi 1:116-125 & II Nephi 7:40-44 with Genesis 7:40-46

Thankfully, the Lord preserved their sacred records so that in a future day He might bring a remnant of Lehi's posterity again to faith in Jesus Christ and His words and thereby fulfill His covenants with them.<sup>173</sup>

**I Nephi 3:184-189** – *For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; And after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb; And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation; And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; And if they endure unto the end, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; And whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be.*

According to His wise and eternal purposes,<sup>174</sup> and by His saving merits,<sup>175</sup> Jesus Christ promises to heal and restore a remnant of Lehi's posterity when they repent and believe in Him and accept Him as their Redeemer Lord. Then He will cause them to *blossom as a rose* to build the New Jerusalem upon Joseph's land as promised in their ancient records.<sup>176</sup>

### **Among the Gentiles as a Young Lion Among the Flocks of Sheep**

Before the *Lamanites blossom as a rose* and build *the New Jerusalem* on Joseph's land in these latter days,<sup>177</sup> they will, however, fulfill certain prophecies given to the prophet Micah and others. In the following quote from Jesus to the ancestors of the current-day Lamanites, we learn that, if the Gentiles do not repent, the Lamanites *shall be among them [the Gentiles], as a lion among the beasts of the forests, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.*

### **III Nephi 9:50-59**

*And the Father hath commanded me that I should give unto you this land, for your inheritance.*

*And I say unto you, that if the Gentiles do not repent, after the blessing which they shall receive, after they have scattered my people, then shall ye who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, go forth among them;*

*And ye shall be in the midst of them, who shall be many; **and ye shall be among them, as a lion among the beasts of the forests, and as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he goeth through, both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.***

***Thy hand shall be lifted up upon thine adversaries, and all thine enemies shall be cut off.***

---

<sup>173</sup> cf. Moroni 10:1-7 with II Nephi 11:34-56 & Words of Mormon 1:1-12

<sup>174</sup> I Nephi 2:99-102, Words of Mormon 1:1-12 & Alma 17:31-44 with II Nephi 11:142,143

<sup>175</sup> Helaman 5:65-67 with II Nephi 1:73-77

<sup>176</sup> I Nephi 4:16-29, II Nephi 7:1-44, III Nephi 9:58, Ether 6:1-13 with Isaiah 27:6, D&C 49:5a-b & III Nephi 10:2-27

<sup>177</sup> Ether 6:4-13 & III Nephi 10:2-27 with D&C 49:5a-d

*And I will gather my people together, as a man gathereth his sheaves into the floor, for I will make my people with whom the Father hath covenanted, yea, I will make thy horn iron, and I will make thy hoofs brass.*

*And thou shalt beat in pieces many people; and I will consecrate their gain unto the Lord, and their substance unto the Lord of the whole earth. And behold, I am he who doeth it.*

*And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles.*

*And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel.*

*And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem.*

*And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you.<sup>178</sup>*

Note how this quote includes **Micah 5:8-15**. It also includes a quote from **Micah 4:12,13**, which is highlighted by underlining. Taking these prophecies together serves to magnify the elements of God's judgment that will come upon the unrepentant Gentiles by way of the *Lamanites* in these latter days. In explaining this judgment, Jesus quoted all of **Micah 5:8-15** with some variation in a later portion of His same message.

Of especial note here is how Jesus included the portion of Micah's prophecy about cutting off *horses* out of the midst of the Gentiles and destroying their *chariots* a second time in His teaching about **Micah 5:8-15**.

### III Nephi 9:99-106

*And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver.*

*Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off.*

*Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that **I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots**, and I will cut off the cities of thy land and throw down all thy strongholds;*

*And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand, and thou shalt have no more soothsayers:*

*Thy graven images I will also cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands;*

*And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.*

*And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and strifes, and priest-crafts and whoredoms, shall be done away.*

*For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.*

---

<sup>178</sup> D&C 28:2a-2g, 38:2a-2c, 50:8e-8g, etc.

### **Cut Off From Among the People**

By quoting Jesus Christ's teachings on **Micah 5:8-15** at this point in the study, we are about ready to begin discussing how and why "horses" will be *cut off* from among this Gentile nation and why their "chariots" will be destroyed. However, before continuing on to that specific topic, it is important to point out how Jesus used certain elements of the prophecy from **Micah 5:8-15** to bracket a highly significant and spectacular revelation that He gave about Himself and about His words coming forth in these latter days.

This unique prophecy Jesus gave about Himself is recorded in **III Nephi 9:60-97**.<sup>179</sup> He began this particular portion of His teaching to Lehi's posterity by identifying Himself as that prophet Moses testified would be raised up among the house of Israel, the One they were told they must hear in all things or be *cut off* from among God's covenant people.

**III Nephi 9:60,61** – *Behold, I am he of whom Moses spake, saying, 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 who will not hear that prophet, shall be cut off from among the people.*

To be *cut off* from God's covenant people is indeed a very severe judgment. All who are cut off from them will not enter His eternal rest, i.e. they will not enter the kingdom of heaven.<sup>180</sup>

Moses summed up the reason for this severe judgment when declaring that God would raise up a prophet among the house of Israel, the one Jesus testified was Himself.<sup>181</sup> Just prior to Moses making this announcement about Jesus (the *prophet* to come), Moses outlined the *abominations* that had spread across the land (the Promised Land) into which the house of Israel had been called. *Diviners, enchanters, witches, charmers, wizards, necromancers*, etc., he said, were all present in that land. Consequently, the Lord declared He was driving out those nations in whom such abominations were found so that His covenant people might be *perfect* before Him in the land.<sup>182</sup>

**Deuteronomy 18:9-14** – *When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord; **and because of these abominations the Lord thy God doth drive them out from before thee. Thou shalt be perfect with the Lord thy God.** For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners; but as for thee, the Lord thy God hath not suffered thee so to do.*

---

<sup>179</sup> As noted, to keep this teaching in its proper context, we must keep in mind that this portion of Jesus Christ's teaching is bracketed by our Lord's teachings on **Micah 5:8-15**.

<sup>180</sup> cf. **I Nephi 3:210-216** & **Alma 9:52-61** with **Romans 11:11-23** & **Hebrews 3:6-19**; see also **Alma 11:26-30** with **John 15:1-6**

<sup>181</sup> **III Nephi 9:60,61** with **Acts 3:19-26** & **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

<sup>182</sup> **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**; cf. **Ephesians 4:10-16** with **Ephesians 2:11-22**, **Hebrews 6:1-3** & **Matthew 5:40-50**

Now compare Moses' words with how Micah testified against these same abominations in his prophecy previously quoted:

**Micah 5:12-14** – *And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers. Thy graven images also will I cut off, and thy standing images out of the midst of thee; and thou shalt no more worship the work of thine hands. And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee; so will I destroy thy cities.*

Wherever secret combinations operate, *witchcrafts* and *graven images* along with *soothsayers*, *observer of times*, *enchanters*, *witches*, *charmners*, *consulters of familiar spirits*, *wizards*, *necromancers*, etc., will also be found along with the other abominations listed earlier. However, as the prophets foretold, they all will be *cut off* from among God's people in the latter days. For all these things are *abominations* to the Lord, and therefore they will not be able to abide where He dwells; instead, they will be shut out from His kingdom forever.<sup>183</sup> Whoever among the Gentiles does not listen to this *voice of warning*, i.e. to forsake and turn away from all such abominations, will be visited with the destruction described in **Micah 5:8-15**.

**III Nephi 9:106** – *For it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that at that day, whosoever will not repent and come unto my beloved Son, them will I cut off from among my people, O house of Israel, and I will execute vengeance and fury upon them, even as upon the heathen, such as they have not heard.*

Surely the Lord has made Himself clear. Every individual who chooses to pursue and participate in the *abominations* and the *works of darkness* carried out by *secret combinations* will be *cut off* from among His covenant people.<sup>184</sup>

Bringing judgment upon all such evils is at the heart of why the *Lamanites* will be given power to devastate this Gentile nation in these latter days according to the prophecy of Micah.<sup>185</sup> When the citizens of this nation are overrun by those who practice secret abominations, Jesus and His prophets warned that this nation would become *ripe* in their *iniquity* and become ready for the judgments of the Lord by way of the *Lamanites*. This judgment will come in a manner similar to the Lord's judgments that came upon the *Nephite* civilization at the time it was overthrown.<sup>186</sup> Notwithstanding these pending judgments of the Lord, those who repent and forsake their secret abominations have His promise they will be *numbered* among His covenant people.<sup>187</sup>

**III Nephi 10:1-3** – *But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance, and they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New*

---

<sup>183</sup> cf. Hebrews 3:6-19 with Alma 9:55-61

<sup>184</sup> II Nephi 7:22-26 with Alma 17:52-60 & Ether 1:31-35; I Corinthians 3:13-20 with Romans 1:18-32, Galatians 5:19-21, Hebrews 12:29

<sup>185</sup> III Nephi 9:50-106 with III Nephi 14:1-3

<sup>186</sup> Ether 1:31-35 with II Nephi 12:19-23

<sup>187</sup> III Nephi 10:1-7 with I Nephi 3:201-204, II Nephi 7:27-32, etc.

*Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.*

This section introduced portions of Micah's prophecies that were quoted by Jesus Christ when ministering to Lehi's posterity in person. Since the topic of the present study is on the Lord's judgments involving *horses* and *chariots*, the portion of Jesus' teaching that He bracketed by Micah's prophecies has only been briefly considered here. However, because this portion of His teaching is highly significant and relevant to these latter days, the reader is encouraged to study it in parallel with the present study and in the context provided by Mormon in his abridgment of Jesus' ministry to Lehi's posterity.

### **It Is Requisite With the Justice of God**

To understand why and how exactly Micah's prophecy<sup>188</sup> will be fulfilled in these latter days, we must recognize its relationship with Gadianton and how he caused the destruction of the *Nephite* civilization by establishing a *secret combination* among them.<sup>189</sup> As reviewed previously, when given the opportunity to do so by wicked individuals like Gadianton, Satan and his servants introduced this secret order into the *Nephite* and *Lamanite* populations throughout their history.<sup>190</sup> Each of these times Satan set up a secret combination among the *Nephites* his object was the same: to cause misery among the people by leading them into conflict and bondage with an ultimate aim of leading them into eternal captivity.<sup>191</sup>

Eventually this band of robbers formed by Gadianton grew sufficiently in influence and power that it caused the full destruction of the *Nephite* civilization through two primary means.<sup>192</sup> First, the *Nephites* hardened their hearts toward the Holy Spirit while yielding themselves to the devil, which enabled this secret order and its works of darkness to spread throughout their land.<sup>193</sup> Second, the wicked *Lamanites* and *Nephite dissenters* grew both in number and in their hatred towards the *Nephites* until they had sufficient strength and resources to completely overthrow the *Nephite* civilization.<sup>194</sup>

The inducement for people to join this secret order was greed and pride propelled by the devil's temptations. According to their corrupt reasoning, they thought that through secret combinations that they could more freely carry out all manner of evil with impunity according to their *carnal, sensual, and devilish* nature and desires.<sup>195</sup> Through his secret order, then, Gadianton set up a pathway for Satan to more directly take hold of the hearts of the people.<sup>196</sup> At the same time, he paved a way for the devil to spread his evil methods and works of

---

<sup>188</sup> See III Nephi 9:50-59 & III Nephi 9:99-106 with Micah 5:8-15

<sup>189</sup> Helaman 1:51,52

<sup>190</sup> Helaman 2:155-158 with Helaman 1:51,52, III Nephi 2:11 & Ether 3:94; e.g. Alma 14:56-58 with Alma 10:106 (Alma 3:3-30) & Alma 17:59-64

<sup>191</sup> cf. II Nephi 1:101-103 & II Nephi 11:93,94 with II Nephi 1:27 & II Nephi 1:121

<sup>192</sup> IV Nephi 1:50-56 with Helaman 3:3-33 & III Nephi 3:41

<sup>193</sup> cf. Ether 3:94-102, IV Nephi 1:31-55 & Moroni 9:4 with II Nephi 11:76 & Ether 6:92

<sup>194</sup> IV Nephi 1:42-48

<sup>195</sup> cf. Helaman 2:150-162, Helaman 3:3,4 & Helaman 5:91 with Genesis 5:14-18, I John 2:15-17 & Luke 4:1-13

<sup>196</sup> cf. Helaman 2:141-167 & Helaman 3:66 with Helaman 3:3-33 & III Nephi 1:36-42

darkness throughout their population with minimal detection and impedance by its legitimate leaders and judges.<sup>197</sup>

Most tragically, by forming his secret order, Gadianton caused many of the *Nephites* to reject the words of the holy prophets of God, those who called them to repentance and taught them to remain faithful to Jesus Christ.<sup>198</sup> In this way, Gadianton opened the way for many of them to abandon the Lord's gospel and His church and become *dissenters* and thus enemies of the *Nephite* civilization.<sup>199</sup> These *dissenters* became worse than had they not known Jesus Christ and the truth of His words.<sup>200</sup> Consequently, Gadianton was the cause of many souls suffering the *second death*, which is an everlasting death.<sup>201</sup>

All peoples and nations which support secret combinations must repent and be reconciled to the will of God, or they will be cut off from His covenant people. This means they will remain forever captive to the devil in *outer darkness*.<sup>202</sup> Nothing will protect them from God's judgments to come, not even a *covenant* with Satan.<sup>203</sup>

*Alma 19:43-46 – ... the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, etc. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil; for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord: for behold they choose evil works, rather than good: therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and take possession of their house; And these shall be cast out into outer darkness; there shall be weeping, and wailing and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the devil.*

Because they loved darkness over the light sent of God into the world, they are doomed to inherit the confines of *outer darkness* for their eternal abode.<sup>204</sup> Had they chosen to repent and to abide in *the light of life*, who is Jesus Christ, they could have received an inheritance with the faithful in the presence of God.<sup>205</sup>

***Alma 19:66-69 – And it is requisite with the justice of God, that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the desires of their hearts were good, that they should also, at the last day, be restored unto that which is good; And if their works are evil, they shall be restored unto him for evil: therefore, all things shall be restored to their proper order; everything to its natural frame; mortality raised to immortality; corruption to incorruption; raised to endless happiness, to inherit the kingdom of***

---

<sup>197</sup> cf. Helaman 2:21 with Helaman 1:11,12 & Helaman 4:30-34

<sup>198</sup> cf. II Nephi 11:60-69 & Moroni 9:4,5 with Ether 4:114; see also Alma 6:9-42 with Alma 7:1-49

<sup>199</sup> cf. IV Nephi 1:50-56 & Helaman 4:30-34 with III Nephi 1:36, etc.

<sup>200</sup> cf. Alma 14:56-58 with II Nephi 6:56-98 & Alma 3:69,70

<sup>201</sup> cf. Helaman 4:33-35 & Helaman 5:72-74 with Jacob 2:64,65, Alma 9:18-32, Alma 9:52-61, I Nephi 3:206-216 & Alma 15:48-51

<sup>202</sup> Alma 19:45-47 with Matthew 8:11,12 & II Timothy 2:24-26; cf. D&C 85:30 with D&C 85:7-8b & D&C 76:3m-4l

<sup>203</sup> Helaman 2:145-158 & II Nephi 6:1-106; cf. Isaiah 28:14-29 with Genesis 5:14-39 IV

<sup>204</sup> cf. Alma 19:45,46 & John 3:12-22 with Matthew 22:13 & Matthew 25:31; I Nephi 6:38-40 with Luke 4:21

<sup>205</sup> II Nephi 7:20-26, Mosiah 8:79-91 & Alma 18:11-15

*God, or to endless misery, to inherit the kingdom of the devil; The one on the one hand, the other on the other; the one raised to happiness, according to his desires of happiness; or good, according to his desires of good; and the other to evil, according to his desires of evil; for as he has desired to do evil all the day long, even so shall he have his reward of evil, when the night cometh. And so it is on the other hand. If he hath repented of his sins, and desired righteousness until the end of his days, even so shall he be rewarded unto righteousness.*

In the end, no works of darkness can go unpunished indefinitely, for nothing can be hid from God and His justice.<sup>206</sup> Yes, the Lord is truly gracious in that He grants each of us a space of time to repent and come unto Him to be cleansed of our sins.<sup>207</sup> He is *willing* for every person to be saved and *converted*<sup>208</sup> into a new creature in Christ,<sup>209</sup> one in whom there is no *disposition* to do evil.<sup>210</sup> However, He *limits* this time of *probation* in which we may be transformed from unbelief to *live by faith* through the *renewing* of our minds in Jesus Christ.<sup>211</sup>

*Hebrews 3:7-14 – Wherefore as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness; When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.*

Just as God's judgments came swiftly upon the *Nephites* when they became *ripe* in their *iniquity*,<sup>212</sup> so will His judgments come upon this Gentile nation in these latter days for the same reasons. If the people of this Gentile nation continue refusing to heed the *convicting, convincing, and converting* witness of the holy prophets against their sins, they will eventually become *fully ripe for destruction*.<sup>213</sup> When they do, the Lord's judgments will fall upon them just as it had upon the people of Jerusalem in the days of Lehi and upon Lehi's posterity in the days of Mormon and Moroni.<sup>214</sup>

Also as prophesied, the Lord's judgments will be far worse for *dissenters*.<sup>215</sup> His judgments will be especially grievous to those *dissenters* who allow themselves to become *diviners, enchanters, witches, charmers, wizards, necromancers*, etc., along with those who *have pleasure*

---

<sup>206</sup> II Nephi 11:145-157 & II Nephi 12:10-21 with II Nephi 11:61-69, III Nephi 4:38-40 & Mormon 1:80

<sup>207</sup> II Nephi 1:105-128, Alma 9:38-61, Alma 19:84-86, Mormon 4:94, etc. with Psalm 103:8-18 & Hebrews 2:17

<sup>208</sup> cf. Luke 22:31,32 & I John 3:6-10 with Mosiah 3:1-21, III Nephi 3:15,16 & Helaman 5:91-107

<sup>209</sup> cf. II Corinthians 5:11-21 & I John 3:6-24 with I Timothy 2:3,4 & II Peter 3:9

<sup>210</sup> Mosiah 3:1-21 with II Nephi 11:95-105 & Moroni 8:7-27;

<sup>211</sup> cf. Alma 9:38-61 with Hebrews 3:7-14; III Nephi 3:15,16 & Helaman 5:91-107 with Romans 12:1-3

<sup>212</sup> Mormon 1:19-41, Mormon 2:45-48, Mormon 3:16-23 & Mormon 4:1-4 with Moroni 8:33, Moroni 9:4 & Ether 1:32,33; see also Alma 8:28

<sup>213</sup> Ether 1:30-35 & Ether 3:94-102 with Alma 17:60 & II Nephi 12:18-21

<sup>214</sup> III Nephi 9:51-106 & III Nephi 14:1-3 with Ether 3:94-102

<sup>215</sup> II Nephi 13:18 & Helaman 3:26 with Alma 19:8,9 & Alma 21:121-122; cf. II Peter 2:21 & Matthew 26:20 with Luke 12:54-58

in them and their works of darkness.<sup>216</sup> Anyone who *tastes of the goodness* of God's Spirit and then forsakes Him and His commandments will not only be cut off from the Lord's covenant people and cast off from the Lord's presence, but they will also suffer the *endless torment* of an everlasting flame that is fueled by their own guilt.<sup>217</sup>

### **Most Abominable and Wicked Above All in the Sight of God**

By revelation, Moroni summarized the judgments that will come in these latter days upon the Gentiles of all nations because of the secret combinations that would be built up among them.<sup>218</sup> He received this revelation after he witnessed the *overthrow and destruction* of the *Nephite* civilization and while he was abridging the records of the *Jaredites* that Ether had kept. Both civilizations, he observed, were brought down and destroyed by this secret combination (i.e. the same one his father, Mormon, wrote had led to *the destruction of the Nephites*<sup>219</sup>).

**Ether 3:94** – *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 whom I am now speaking, and also the destruction of the people of Nephi.*

Moroni was then moved to warn the inhabitants of this latter-day Gentile nation of their *overthrow and destruction* by the same *secret combination*.<sup>220</sup> According to the revelation given to Moroni, *the sword of the justice of the eternal God* will fall upon the people if and when they allow *such secret combinations* to gain control of the government of the nation.

**Ether 3:95-97** – *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 avenge them not; Wherefore, O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shewn 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.*

Plainly stated, we are to understand that when this Gentile nation comes under the judgments of God, it will be for the same reason the *Nephite* and *Jaredite* civilizations were *overthrown and destroyed*. It will result from individuals carrying out secret oaths and plans that bring about the same objectives of the secret combinations of old. Because the Lord has

---

<sup>216</sup> III Nephi 9:51-57, III Nephi 9:65-66, III Nephi 9:101-106 with III Nephi 14:1-3, etc.; I Nephi 2:68-76 with Romans 1:32, Mormon 2:48-54, Ether 1:30-35, etc.

<sup>217</sup> I Nephi 2:76, II Nephi 13:18, Helaman 4:72,73 & III Nephi 9:51-106 with Mosiah 8:61,62 & Alma 9:51-53; II Nephi 12:23-30 & Mosiah 1:126-129 with Alma 19:66-69; Hebrews 6:3-8 & Hebrews 10:23-31 with Hebrews 3:8-19

<sup>218</sup> Ether 3:92-102 with Ether 1:31-35, Ether 1:97-117 & Ether 5:19-41; see also Alma 17:52-57

<sup>219</sup> Ether 3:98 with Ether 3:94 & Helaman 1:51

<sup>220</sup> Ether 3:98 with Ether 3:94

caused His words (as recorded in the abridged *Nephite* record) to come forth to the inhabitants of this land, this nation will be judged for sinning against the *greater light* it has received.<sup>221</sup>

**Luke 12:56,57** – *And that servant who knew his Lord's will, and prepared not for his Lord's coming, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not his Lord's will, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom the Lord has committed much, of him will men ask the more.*

**John 3:19,20** – *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds are evil. For every one who doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.*

When abridging the *Jaredite* record, Moroni made it clear that the secret combination formed among the *Jaredites* had been in the world from the beginning and was *most abominable and wicked above all in the sight of God*.<sup>222</sup>

**Ether 3:92,93** – *And it came to pass that **they formed a secret combination, even as they of old; which combination is most abominable and wicked above all, in the sight of God; For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations**, neither doth he will that man should shed blood, but in all things hath forbidden it, from the beginning of man.*

In fact, Moroni wrote that it had been made known to him that *the manner of their oaths and combinations ... are had among all people* from ancient times.

**Ether 3:94** – *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 whom I am now speaking, and also the destruction of the people of Nephi.*

Compare Moroni's words now with those of his father Mormon who had come to the same conclusion, i.e. that the *Nephite* peoples were ultimately overthrown by Gadianton who had formed a secret combination like those of old.<sup>223</sup>

**Helaman 1:51,52** – *And behold, in the end of this book, **ye shall see that this Gadianton did prove the overthrow, yea, almost the entire destruction of the people of Nephi**. Behold I do not mean the end of the book of Helaman, but I mean the end of the book of Nephi, from which I have taken all the account which I have written.*

Gadianton's form of a secret combination will dominate all other combinations; nevertheless it will be combined or bound with them in order to be burned. These represent the tares of the earth which are to be bound in bundles and made ready to be burned.<sup>224</sup>

**D&C 38:3a-c** – *Verily I say unto you, Ye are clean but not all; and there is none else with whom I am well pleased, for all flesh is corruptible before me, and the powers of darkness*

---

<sup>221</sup> III Nephi 9:51-53 with Alma 7:24-36 & Alma 14:58

<sup>222</sup> cf. Ether 3:92-94 with II Nephi 11:93-97 & Helaman 2:155

<sup>223</sup> Helaman 2:145-163 with Helaman 4:31-34 & III Nephi 2:11

<sup>224</sup> D&C 38:3a-c with D&C 84:2d, D&C 85:26c & D&C 98:9c

*prevail upon the earth, among the children of men, in the presence of all the hosts of heaven, which causeth silence to reign, and all eternity is pained, and the angels are waiting the great command to reap down the earth, to gather the tares that they may be burned; **and, behold, the enemy is combined.***

This section has introduced the reason for the prophecy recorded in [Micah 5:8-15](#) and why Jesus expounded upon this particular prophecy to Lehi's posterity. After abridging the *Jaredite* record, Moroni plainly saw that this same secret order had caused the downfall of the *Jaredites*, just as it had the *Nephites*. He also bore witness that this same secret order would threaten the very existence of this Gentile nation – the nation into whose hands his father's abridgment of his people's sacred records has since been placed. What, then, should be our response?



### PART 3: O Be Wise: What Can I Say More?

In this final section, we will review the wisdom given by the Lord to Moroni to include a clear and concise warning to this Gentile nation in his abridgment of the *Jaredite* record. While Moroni warned about secret combinations in general, he and his father Mormon warned us about one specific secret combination.<sup>225</sup> Since it is secret, how will it be recognized and who will heed their warnings? The answer was summed up by the Lord as follows: it will be those “...*that are wise and have received the truth, and have taken the Holy Spirit for their guide, and have not been deceived.*”<sup>226</sup>

#### **When Ye Shall See These Things Come Among You**

Moroni not only delivered very potent words of admonition, of wisdom, and of prophecy specifically to the people of this Gentile nation, but he also relayed a crucial commandment of the Lord to us, the command to *awaken* to the *awful situation* that has come upon us for letting secret combinations get above our nation through controlling our government.

**Ether 3:98-101 – *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 who 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, who is the father of all lies; even that same liar who beguiled our first parents; Yea, even that same liar who hath caused man to commit murder from the beginning; who hath hardened the hearts of men, that they have murdered the prophets, and stoned them, and cast them out from the beginning.***

Moroni’s words were meant to convey a somber sense of warning and a call to action with specific instructions for dealing with our current *situation*. We can and should trust in the veracity of their words as being God’s word to us. For did not the Lord evidence the truth of these words by the miraculous way in which He brought forth the Book of Mormon in these latter days?<sup>227</sup>

Failure to heed the Lord’s warning can and will lead to only one thing: the *overthrow* of this Gentile nation after the same pattern in which the *Jaredite* and *Nephite* nations were overthrown before us. In this destruction that awaits us, we will see our *horses* and *chariots*, i.e. our transportation and means of doing work and combatting our enemies, taken from us.<sup>228</sup> It is imperative then that we do not treat the prophecies of Micah, Jesus Christ, Mormon, Moroni, etc., as idle words. We must act upon them with all diligence and soberness of mind

---

<sup>225</sup> Ether 3:95-97

<sup>226</sup> cf. D&C 45:10b with John 14:15-26 & John 16:13-15

<sup>227</sup> Book of Mormon Title Page

<sup>228</sup> Helaman 1:51,52

and intent.

Knowing that secret combinations would wage a relentless war against the freedoms of nations, the Lord, through His servants the prophets, foretold of the ultimate destruction that would eventually come upon this nation and those secret combinations that have infected it as an invasive parasite.<sup>229</sup> Even still, the Lord calls us to repent and turn back to Him as a nation so He might heal us and our land and gather us together with a remnant of His covenant people.<sup>230</sup>

*III Nephi 14:1-3 – Hearken, O, ye Gentiles, and hear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which he hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you, for, behold he commandeth me that I should write, saying, Turn all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel.*

The foregoing words written by Mormon were echoed in the command that Moroni recorded in **Ether 3:96-102**, which concludes with these words.

*Ether 3:102 – 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.*

What must we do to honor the command Moroni received for our welfare? Can we heed his warning without knowing who are the enemies of our freedom? How exactly do we go about learning their identity? Mormon's and Moroni's abridgments of the Nephite and Jaredite records, respectively, give us answers to identifying representatives of secret combinations today.

As in Nephite times, the dominant secret combination of our day will stand out from other secret combinations by their majority control over the judgment seats of the land, i.e. the court systems. In other words, in keeping with a pattern outlined in the Book of Mormon, we can learn the identity of the dominant secret combinations by observing who presides over the highest courts of the land and then identifying the common affiliations among them.<sup>231</sup> There we will find the representatives of the most influential secret combinations that have gained preeminence in the government.

Just how important are the courts of the land? Whoever controls court orders effectively controls the regulation of the whole of society. A court can order a person to be detained or

---

<sup>229</sup> II Nephi 7:20-26 with I Nephi 3:190-237

<sup>230</sup> e.g. II Chronicles 7:14 with I John 1:5-10 & I John 2:1,2

<sup>231</sup> Consider reading <https://www.hisworkmanship.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/TheEnemyInTheSecretChambers091106P.pdf>

imprisoned; it can have the wealth of citizens seized, have children removed from their parents' homes, personal property confiscated, etc. It is imperative then that the people of these United States recognize the importance of heeding the warnings given in prophecy which the Lord has preserved and brought forth to us in these latter days through the Book of Mormon.

Individuals who engage in secret bands or societies are enlisted in a secret movement to *overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations and countries*. That is, they have enlisted in an effort to impose Satan's secretive and dark ways on both the citizens of their own lands and on those of all other nations.<sup>232</sup> Today, as it was in days of old, this is the ultimate objective of secret combinations: to obtain the sole management and control of the government.

**Helaman 2:165,166** – *And it came to pass on the other hand, that the Nephites did build them up and support them, beginning at the more wicked part of them, until they had overspread all the land of the Nephites, and had seduced the more part of the righteous until they had come down to believe in their works, and partake of their spoils, and to join with them in their secret murders and combinations. **And thus they did obtain the sole management of the government**, insomuch that they did trample under their feet, and smite, and rend, and turn their backs upon the poor, and the meek, and the humble followers of God.*

In the days of Nephi, the son of Helaman, this secret combination had done just that. They first gained control over the judgment seat of the land, which then enables them to carry out their injustices, including letting the wicked go free while trampling upon the *backs of the poor, and the meek, and the humble followers of God*.

**Helaman 3:3,4** – *And seeing the people in a state of such awful wickedness, and those Gadianton robbers filling the judgment seats, having usurped the power and authority of the land; laying aside the commandments of God, and not in the least aright before him: doing no justice unto the children of men; condemning the righteous because of their righteousness; letting the guilty and the wicked go unpunished, because of their money; And moreover, to be held in office, at the head of government, to rule and do according to their wills, that they might get gain and glory of the world; and moreover that they might the more easy commit adultery, and steal, and kill, and do according to their own wills.*

It seems rather evident that this same system of corruption and injustice has become well established in various parts of the United States government. Because secret combinations have been allowed to go unchecked, they have gained control of many positions in our judicial system and many aspects of the management of our state and federal governments. Just as it was in the days of the *Nephites* and the *Jaredites* before them, operatives of the principal secret combination of concern have for years been filling many key roles in Congress, as evidenced by their dominance in chairing many Senate and House legislative committees.<sup>233</sup> Nephi has also shown us that this body is a church which slays, tortures, and binds the true saints of God.<sup>234</sup>

---

<sup>232</sup> Ether 3:98-101

<sup>233</sup> e.g. <http://www.granddesignexposed.com/pdf/ROEpdf.pdf>

<sup>234</sup> I Nephi 3:139-144

Through the Book of Mormon, the ancient inhabitants of this land are calling to us today, *crying to us from the dust*,<sup>235</sup> to not follow in the same path of destruction that brought them to a dramatic and cataclysmic end.<sup>236</sup> Recall how the faithful among Lehi's posterity had preached the word of God to the members of these secret combinations.

**Helaman 2:163,164** – *And thus we see that the Lord began to pour out his Spirit upon the Lamanites, because of their easiness and willingness to believe in his word. And it came to pass that the Lamanites did hunt the band of robbers of Gadianton; **and they did preach the word of God among the more wicked part of them**, insomuch that this band of robbers was utterly destroyed from among the Lamanites.*

**III Nephi 2:82-88** – *And now behold there was not a living soul among all the people of the Nephites, who did doubt in the least the words of all the holy prophets who had spoken; For they knew that it must needs be that they must be fulfilled; and they knew that it must be expedient that Christ had come, because of the many signs which had been given, according to the words of the prophets, And because of the things which had come to pass already, they knew that it must needs be that all things should come to pass according to that which had been spoken; Therefore they did forsake all their sins and their abominations, and their whoredoms, and did serve God with all diligence day and night. And now it came to pass that when they had taken all the robbers prisoners, insomuch that none did escape who were not slain, they did cast their prisoners into prison, **and did cause the word of God to be preached unto them...***

This is what Mormon and Moroni are calling us to do today, to faithfully preach the word of the Lord so all such works of darkness might be done away. Just as their aim in writing these things was that these secret combinations become extinct among them, so may it be our objective today. If we fail to do so, our civilization can and will become extinct like the *Jaredite* and *Nephite* civilizations of old.

Remember also how Nephi has stated, all such combinations are of the devil and have been formed among all nations ever since Cain covenanted with Satan.

**II Nephi 11:93-95** – *And there are also secret combinations, **even as in times of old, according to the combinations of the devil, for he is the foundation of all these things**; yea, the foundation of murder, and works of darkness; Yea, and he leadeth them by the neck with a flaxen cord, until he bindeth them with his strong cords for ever. For behold, my beloved brethren, I say unto you, that the Lord God worketh not in darkness.*

Therefore, only the word of God can truly be effective in eliminating secret combinations from our midst today.<sup>237</sup> If we are wise, we too will repent of allowing this secret combination to get above us and then preach the word of God faithfully to the peoples of this nation, especially to all those who have entered into the secret oaths of those who have bound themselves to secret combinations. For everyone who has taken the oaths of any secret

---

<sup>235</sup> II Nephi 2:38-43 with II Nephi 15:16 & Ether 3:98

<sup>236</sup> II Nephi 11:81-95 with III Nephi 14:1-3 & Ether 3:102

<sup>237</sup> Ephesians 6:10-18 with Hebrews 4:11-13

combination, i.e. those of which Mormon and Moroni have written about, will be *cut off* from the covenant people of the Lord.<sup>238</sup>

They will be removed from the land in the same manner in which the Nephites and Laminites of old were *cut off* from the presence of the Lord for joining themselves together in the *darkness* of the devil.<sup>239</sup> Except for such an eternal separation, the kingdom of God would become *polluted* by Satan perpetuating<sup>240</sup> his works of darkness in the midst of God's covenant people.<sup>241</sup> Because all such works are reprehensible and abominable before God, those who carry out the works of darkness must receive a judgment in keeping with their deeds.

According to Micah's prophecy, a catastrophic destruction awaits this Gentile nation if it follows the pattern of the *Jaredite* and *Nephite* civilizations in supporting secret combinations, societies, bands, robbers, etc. When this great evil finally proves the overthrow of this nation by inviting the judgments of God upon it to its ultimate destruction, our *horses* will be *cut off* and our *chariots* destroyed. What exactly are the *horses* and *chariots* of this Gentile nation? Is not the industry and military of this land driven about in the chariots of automobiles, trucks, planes, etc., all propelled by the horsepower generated by various forms of fuel? What would befall a nation like the United States of America if the supply of gas or electricity were not available for an extended period? What would become of the food supply in the stores? What would be the response of our neighbors in such an extended crisis like this?

### **Behold, the Enemy Is Combined**

Our Lord is not in secret chambers. Neither does He work by way of secret combinations.

*Mark 13:27-29 – And ye also shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all I have told you must come to pass, but the end is not yet. Behold, I have told you before, wherefore it they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; **go not forth**; Behold, he is in the secret chambers; **believe it not**. For as the light of the morning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, and covereth the whole earth, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be.*

Jesus made this clear by warning His disciples not to believe anyone who says He is in secret chambers. Instead, He has promised the wicked, those who bring forth evil fruit, that they will be bound in bundles to be burned.

*Matthew 13:29 – Let both grow together until the harvest, and in the time of harvest, I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the wheat into my barn; and the tares are bound in bundles to be burned.*

---

<sup>238</sup> II Nephi 7:20-32 & Ether 1:30-35 with I Nephi 7:42-45

<sup>239</sup> III Nephi 9:98-106 with I Nephi 4:52-63 & Alma 21:9-15

<sup>240</sup> Helaman 2:155,156 & Ether 3:90 with Alma 21:9-15 & III Nephi 9:98-106

<sup>241</sup> Ether 3:100 with II Nephi 1:103-105 & Mormon 4:51-56

Those who have been grafted into Jesus Christ but who do not bear His Father fruit of His kingdom<sup>242</sup> are especially at risk of this judgment, that is, except they repent and return unto the Lord.

*John 15:6 – If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

*I John 2:1-3 – My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. But if any man sin and repent, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

In preparation of the final judgment, all secret combinations will be *combined* (bound and readied to be burned) under the headship of one dominant secret combination.<sup>243</sup>

*D&C 38:3a-3c – Verily I say unto you, Ye are clean but not all; and there is none else with whom I am well pleased, for all flesh is corruptible before me, and the powers of darkness prevail upon the earth, among the children of men, in the presence of all the hosts of heaven, which causeth silence to reign, and all eternity is pained, and the angels are waiting the great command to reap down the earth, to gather the tares that they may be burned; and, behold, **the enemy is combined.***

Moroni helps us appreciate more fully these warnings when he wrote of secret combinations (plural) and then of a particular secret combination (singular).<sup>244</sup> In other words, the many lesser secret combinations will be joined to one dominant one as they are readied for the final judgment, which will come by fire.

All of those who are a part of this larger combination of secret combinations will seek the life of the Lord's people. Accordingly, the Lord has warned us to pray and be diligent in keeping His commands.

*D&C 38:4a,b – And now I show unto you a mystery, **a thing which is had in secret chambers, to bring to pass even your destruction,** in process of time, and ye knew it not, but now I tell it unto you, and ye are blessed, not because of your iniquity, neither your hearts of unbelief, for verily some of you are guilty before me; but I will be merciful unto your weakness.*

*D&C 38:6a-7a – Behold, this I have given unto you a parable, and it is even as I am: I say unto you, Be one; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine. **And again I say unto you, that the enemy in the secret chambers seeketh your lives.** Ye hear of wars in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land. I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom in your bosoms, lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you, by their wickedness, in a manner that shall speak in your ears, with a voice louder than that which shall shake the earth: but if ye are prepared, ye shall not fear. And that ye might escape the*

---

<sup>242</sup> John 15:1-8 with Matthew 5:15-18; see also Romans 14:17 with Galatians 5:22-26

<sup>243</sup> Ether 3:94-102 with D&C 38:3a-3c

<sup>244</sup> Ether 3:96-98

*power of the enemy, and be gathered unto me a righteous people, without spot and blameless:*

Will we heed God's calling to be gathered in one according to His covenant so we may be preserved as a righteous people?<sup>245</sup> To this end, may we look to the Lord and obey His call to live by His every word.<sup>246</sup> He promises to protect and guide us through this time of tribulation.<sup>247</sup> To abide in His care, we must put on *the whole armor of God*, including using the sword of the Spirit, the word of the Lord, to defend ourselves.<sup>248</sup> We are to speak the word of God in truth and love, and in all seasons and to all people.<sup>249</sup> For it is by the gift of His Spirit that we are given the means to declare and defend the truth against all the forces of darkness.<sup>250</sup>

As warned in these latter days, Satan will have power over his followers, i.e. the citizens of his kingdom.<sup>251</sup> They are being combined under one head and being mobilized to do his bidding for the purpose of destroying the works of the Lord.<sup>252</sup> Satan is the one who inspires vengeance and destruction, anger and conflict, disputing and doubting.

Therefore, the devil's kingdom *must shake and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they will be stirred up to anger and perish.*<sup>253</sup> By causing his kingdom to *shake*, the Lord is being merciful to them. He is providing a way for their escape from that *awful monster, the devil*, from *death and hell*.<sup>254</sup> Those who repent, who are willing to be turned from their wicked way and come unto Christ, will be saved from his grasp while all others will yet remain captive to the devil and his domain of darkness and misery.<sup>255</sup>

But, praise be to God forever! He will preserve His covenant people, those who abide in the fullness of His gospel, those who abide in His *everlasting covenant*.<sup>256</sup> For these are they who are one in Him.<sup>257</sup> Therefore, He promises to keep them from the coming judgments.<sup>258</sup> Though they will *barely escape*, the Lord will keep them from the hour of temptation because they kept His words in patience during the many trials they endured for His sake.<sup>259</sup>

*D&C 98:5h-k – And all they who suffer persecution for my name, and endure in faith, though they are called to lay down their lives for my sake, yet shall they partake of all this glory.*

---

<sup>245</sup> D&C 36:12c-g with D&C 38:6a-d & D&C 95:3a-d

<sup>246</sup> D&C 83:7a-8c & D&C 95:3a-d with Deuteronomy 8:3

<sup>247</sup> D&C 63:9b-c with D&C 94:5a-g

<sup>248</sup> D&C 26:3a-g with Ephesians 6:10-18

<sup>249</sup> D&C 16:4e with Ephesians 4:11-16 & Psalm 15:1,2; see also II Timothy 4:1-4 with Isaiah 57:19

<sup>250</sup> e.g. Ephesians 6:17

<sup>251</sup> II Nephi 12:23-26 with D&C 1:6a-c

<sup>252</sup> Moroni 7:10 & Moroni 9:6 with D&C 38:6a-d

<sup>253</sup> II Nephi 12:23

<sup>254</sup> e.g. II Nephi 6:10-55 with Hebrews 12:5-29 & Revelation 3:18-22

<sup>255</sup> cf. Alma 19:43-48 with II Nephi 6:93, II Nephi 12:23, Alma 9:17-32 & D&C 28:3a-5c

<sup>256</sup> e.g. D&C 66:1a,b & D&C 108:11a with D&C 39:3e, D&C 45:2a-h & D&C 95:3a-d

<sup>257</sup> D&C 34:1a,b, 42:2b-3b, etc. with Ezekiel 37:12-23 & Jeremiah 31:31-34

<sup>258</sup> D&C 36:12c-g

<sup>259</sup> Revelation 3:10,11 with Revelation 12:9-11

*Wherefore, fear not even unto death; for in this world your joy is not full, but in me your joy is full. Therefore, care not for the body, neither the life of the body; but care for the soul, and for the life of the soul, and seek the face of the Lord always, that in patience ye may possess your souls, and ye shall have eternal life. When men are called unto mine everlasting gospel, and covenant with an everlasting covenant, they are accounted as the salt of the earth, and the savor of men. They are called to be the savor of men.*

### **Hearken, O Ye Gentiles, and Hear the Words of Jesus Christ**

When concluding his abridgement of the *sacred records* kept by his people, Mormon plainly stated what we must do to be spared the prophesied judgments outlined in **Micah 5:8-15**.

#### **III Nephi 14:1-3**

*Hearken, O ye Gentiles,  
And hear the words of Jesus Christ,  
the Son of the living God,  
which He hath commanded me  
that I should speak concerning you.  
For behold, He commandeth me  
that I should write, saying:  
Turn, all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways!  
And repent of your evil doings-  
of your lyings and deceivings,  
and your whoredoms,  
and of your secret abominations,  
and your idolatries,  
and of your murders,  
and your priestcrafts,  
and your envyings,  
and your strifes,  
and from all your wickedness and abominations-  
And come unto Me and be baptized in My name!  
That ye may receive a remission of your sins  
and be filled with the Holy Ghost,  
That ye may be numbered with My people  
which are of the house of Israel.*

Then, when giving an account of his own ministry, Mormon again spoke directly to the people of this nation. With plain words, he echoed the warning that if we fail to repent and humble ourselves before the Lord, *a remnant of the seed of Jacob shall go forth among you as a lion and tear you in pieces and there is none to deliver.*

#### **Mormon 2:51-54**

*And then, O ye Gentiles, how can ye stand before  
the power of God except ye shall repent  
and turn from your evil ways?  
Know ye not that ye are in the hands of God?  
Know ye not that He hath all power and at His great*

*command the earth shall be rolled together as a scroll?  
Therefore, repent ye and humble yourselves before Him,  
lest He shall come out in justice against you-  
**Lest a remnant of the seed of Jacob shall go forth  
among you as a lion and tear you in pieces  
and there is none to deliver!***

By referencing the remnant of the seed of Jacob being like a lion among us, Mormon is clearly directing our attention back to **Micah 5:8-15** and the prophecy of Jesus Christ discussed in Part 2. If we fail to heed such plain and precious calls to repentance and faith in our Savior, can any of us hope to escape the judgments spoken of in **Micah 5:8-15**? While considering this question, please consider anew the following words spoken by Jesus Christ:

### **III Nephi 9:98 – 10:4**

*Therefore, when these works, and the work which  
shall be wrought among you hereafter  
[i.e. the Book of Mormon], shall come forth  
from the Gentiles unto your seed, which shall dwindle  
in unbelief because of iniquity –  
For thus it behooveth the Father that it  
should come forth from the Gentiles,  
That He may show forth His power  
unto the Gentiles for this cause:  
That the Gentiles – if they will not harden their hearts –  
That they may repent  
and come unto Me  
and be baptized in My name  
and know of the true points of My doctrine,  
That they may be numbered among My people,  
O house of Israel –  
And when these things come to pass –  
that thy seed shall begin to know these things –  
It shall be a sign unto them that they may know that  
the work of the Father hath already commenced,  
Unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made  
unto the people which are of the house of Israel.  
And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass  
that kings shall shut their mouths,  
For that which had not been told them, shall they see,  
And that which they had not heard, shall they consider;  
For in that day, for My sake shall the Father work a work  
which shall be a great and a marvelous work  
among them;  
And there shall be among them which will not believe it,  
although a man shall declare it unto them.  
But behold, the life of My servant shall be in My hand;  
Therefore, they shall not hurt him, although*

*he shall be marred because of them,  
Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that  
My wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil.  
Therefore, it shall come to pass that whosoever will  
not believe in My words – which am Jesus Christ –  
Which the Father shall cause him [the Lord's servant]  
to bring forth unto the Gentiles,  
And shall give unto him power that he shall bring  
them forth unto the Gentiles – it shall be done  
even as Moses said –  
They shall be cut off from among My people  
which are of the covenant.  
And My people which are a remnant of Jacob  
shall be among the Gentiles,  
Yea, in the midst of them,  
as a lion among the beasts of the forest,  
as a young lion among the flocks of sheep,  
Who, if he go through, both treadeth down  
and teareth in pieces,  
And none can deliver.  
Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries,  
And all their enemies shall be cut off.  
Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent!  
For it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father,  
That I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee,  
And I will destroy thy chariots,  
And I will cut off the cities of thy land  
And throw down all thy strongholds.  
And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thy hand,  
And thou shalt have no more soothsayers.  
Thy graven images I will also cut off,  
And thy standing images out of the midst of thee;  
And thou shalt no more worship the works of thy hands;  
And I will pluck up thy groves out of the midst of thee-  
So will I destroy thy cities.  
And it shall come to pass that all lyings and deceivings  
and envyings and strifes and priestcrafts  
and whoredoms shall be done away.  
For it shall come to pass, saith the Father,  
that at that day, whosoever will not repent  
and come unto My beloved Son,  
Them will I cut off from among My people,  
O house of Israel,  
And I will execute vengeance and fury upon them-even*

*as upon the heathen-such as they have not heard!*  
*But if they will repent,*  
*and hearken unto My words,*  
*and harden not their hearts,*  
*I will establish My church among them;*  
*And they shall come in unto the covenant and be*  
*numbered among this, the remnant of Jacob, unto*  
*whom I have given this land for their inheritance,*  
*And they shall assist My people, the remnant of Jacob-*  
*And also as many of the house of Israel as shall come-*  
*That they may build a city which shall be called*  
*the New Jerusalem;*  
*And then shall they assist My people that they*  
*may be gathered in, which are scattered upon*  
*all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem;*  
*And then shall the powers of heaven*  
*come down among them,*  
*And I also will be in the midst;*  
*And then shall the work of the Father commence*  
*at that day, even when this gospel shall be*  
*preached among the remnant of this people.*

In these latter days, the Lord has renewed His call to the people of this land to repent. Just as He led Lehi and others to call on the inhabitants of Jerusalem to repent, He is now directing His latter day servants to join in warning this nation of the judgments that await us if we do not repent and come unto Him.

**D&C 43:5a-8c**

*Hearken ye, for, behold, the great day of the Lord is nigh at hand.*  
*For the day cometh that the Lord shall utter his voice out of heaven; the heavens shall shake*  
*and the earth shall tremble, and the trump of God shall sound both long and loud, and shall*  
*say to the sleeping nations;*  
*Ye saints arise and live; Ye sinners stay and sleep until I shall call again: wherefore gird up*  
*your loins, lest ye be found among the wicked. Lift up your voices and spare not.*  
*Call upon the nations to repent, both old and young, both bond and free; saying,*  
*Prepare yourselves for the great day of the Lord: for if I, who am a man, do lift up my voice*  
*and call upon you to repent, and ye hate me, what will ye say when the day cometh when*  
*the thunders shall utter their voices from the ends of the earth, speaking to the ears of all*  
*that live, saying:*  
*Repent, and prepare for the great day of the Lord; yea, and again, when the lightnings shall*  
*streak forth from the east unto the west, and shall utter forth their voices unto all that live,*  
*and make the ears of all tingle, that hear, saying these words:*  
*Repent ye, for the great day of the Lord is come.*  
*And again, the Lord shall utter his voice out of heaven, saying: Hearken, O ye nations of the*  
*earth, and hear the words of that God who made you.*

*O, ye nations of the earth, how often would I have gathered you together as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, but ye would not? How oft have I called upon you by the mouth of my servants, and by the ministering of angels, and by mine own voice, and by the voice of thunders, and by the voice of lightnings, and by the voice of tempests, and by the voice of earthquakes, and great hailstorms, and by the voice of famines and pestilences of every kind, and by the great sound of a trumpet, and by the voice of judgment, and by the voice of mercy all the day long, and by the voice of glory and honor, and the riches of eternal life, and would have saved you with an everlasting salvation, but ye would not?*

*Behold, the day has come, when the cup of the wrath of mine indignation is full.*

*Behold, verily I say unto you, that these are the words of the Lord your God; wherefore, labor ye, labor ye in my vineyard for the last time:*

*for the last time call upon the inhabitants of the earth, for in my own due time will I come upon the earth in judgment; and my people shall be redeemed and shall reign with me on earth;*

*for the great millennial, which I have spoken by the mouth of my servants, shall come; for Satan shall be bound; and when he is loosed again, he shall only reign for a little season, and then cometh the end of the earth;*

*and he that liveth in righteousness, shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye;*

*and the earth shall pass away so as by fire;*

*and the wicked shall go away into unquenchable fire; and their end no man knoweth, on earth, nor ever shall know, until they come before me in judgment.*

*Hearken ye to these words, behold, I am Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world.*

*Treasure these things up in your hearts, and let the solemnities of eternity rest upon your minds.*

*Be sober. Keep all my commandments. Even so. Amen.*

As this passage outlines, many forms of judgment will soon come upon this land in preparation for the great day of the Lord. Will any good come of ignoring these warnings? By placing the Book of Mormon in our hands, the Lord has presented us with many excellent words of counsel and direction, like these words spoken by King Benjamin.

**Mosiah 2:48-50** – *And finally, I can not tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin: for there are divers ways and means, even so many, that I can not number them. But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe to keep the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. **And now, O man, remember, and perish not.***

But will we act upon these words of wisdom, or will we merely acknowledge they exist? My hope in preparing this study has been to encourage repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. In keeping with this aim and to conclude this study, I encourage you to take to heart the following words spoken by Jacob, Lehi's son. If you do, I am confident God will richly bless you with wisdom and His eternal peace in the days to come.

**Jacob 4:16,17** – *O then, my beloved brethren, repent ye, and enter in at the strait gate, and continue in the way which is narrow, until ye shall obtain eternal life. O be wise: what can I say more?*



