

## Lesson 11: Mosiah 24, 25, 26

**READING NOTES:** In the previous three chapters we see God's people in a condition of bondage. Chapters 21 and 22 follow King Limhi, the son of wicked king Noah, and the Nephites who are left to deal with a legacy of Noah's sins and poor government. They are eventually rescued by a group from Zarahemla led by Ammon who has come searching for them. Chapter 23 relates the story of Alma and the faithful saints who left their city during Noah's reign to start a colony on their own. They are discovered however, by Lamanite armies who happen upon them while searching for the fleeing group of Nephites under King Limhi. This same army also finds the lost priests of Amulon. When everything is sorted out, the Lamanites put the bad guys (Amulon and company) in charge of the good guys (Alma and company). The scene is set.

### First Reading: Mosiah 24: 1-25

1. What responsibilities did the king of the Lamanites give to Amulon and his fellow priests?
  
2. A. What are some ways this changed Lamanite culture?  
  
B. There are several times later in Book of Mormon history when Nephites do missionary work among the Lamanites. What advantages and disadvantages will they face in proselytizing to the Lamanites because of the work of the Amulonites?
  
3. A. Why did Amulon "have it in for" Alma?  
  
B. Amulon and his priest friends became VIP's in the Lamanite kingdom. What should be our response when wicked people prosper and become influential in the world around us?
  
4. A. What difference does it make in your life to know that God "did know the thoughts of their hearts," as in verse 12?  
  
B. What difference does it make to know that "there is none else save God that knowest thy thoughts and the intents of thy heart." (D&C 6:16)  
  
C. Why does God sometimes tell one of his servants what another person is thinking? See Alma 18:16-35 for a good missionary story in which God makes use of this power.  
  
D. How will this power and ability of God to discern the thoughts and intents of our hearts make a difference in the final judgment day? See Alma 12:13 14.
  
5. What were the afflictions suffered by Alma's people?

6. Re-read the covenants Alma's people made in their relationships with one another from Mos 18:8-9. What benefits did they receive in this situation from these covenants?
7. A. How did the Lord help Alma's people in this situation?
- B. PERSONAL: Is there a time you can share in which the Lord "eased your burdens that you could not feel them" or in some way "visited you in your affliction"?
8. What benefits came to Alma's people from going through their trial in the way that they did?
9. What lessons can we gain from their example that would help us face our own challenges and trials?
10. How did Alma's people escape from bondage?
11. CHALLENGE QUESTION: What is the major difference between the sufferings of King Limhi's people (Chp. 22) before their deliverance from bondage and the sufferings of Alma's group before their deliverance? And to what do you attribute this difference?

**Second Reading:** Mosiah 25: 1-24 In this section, all the population groups that are designated Nephites come together in Zarahemla under King Mosiah's leadership.

12. A. Which two groups are "returning" after three generations away from Zarahemla?
- B. Of all the people under King Mosiah's authority, who constitutes the largest population group?
- C. How do Mosiah's people compare in number to the Lamanites?
13. Match up the following three kings (whose story is told in the record called The Record of Zeniff) to the way in which they were primarily responsible for getting or keeping the people under their reign in bondage?
- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. King Zeniff             | A. Being born into bondage     |
| 2. King Noah, Zeniff's son | B. Relying on the arm of flesh |
| 3. King Limhi, Noah's son  | C. Sin                         |
14. What are specific ways that people can put their children into bondage?
15. The theme of bondage and escape from bondage is very prominent in the Book of Mormon. What is the spiritual message you think we are supposed to take from these stories of deliverance from bondage?

16. All men and women, by virtue of being fallen human beings living in a fallen world, are in one kind of bondage or another until Jesus Christ frees them from their bondage. Gal. 5:1 states, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." How can we stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free? (You may find some helpful ideas in 1 Corinthians 7:22 and Mosiah 5:8.)

17. It says in this chapter "there was nothing preached in all the churches except it were repentance and faith in God." (v. 22) Some have noted that there is no mention in the Book of Mormon of such things as tithing, three degrees of glory, eternal marriage and many other doctrines we teach about today. However in our dispensation too the Lord says to "preach naught but repentance....And of tenets thou shalt not talk, but thou shalt declare repentance and faith on the Savior, and remission of sins by baptism, and by fire, yea, even the Holy Ghost." (D&C 19:21&31) Why are the same basics so emphasized in every gospel dispensation?

### **Third Reading: Mosiah 26:1-14**

18. What were some of the things the rising generation did not believe in?
19.
  - A. What came first—not understanding or not believing?
  - B. What things can be done to help the rising generation have "believing" hearts?
  - C. What things can we do to help the rising generation "understand the word of God"?
20. What gave the dissenters from the church power to attract greater numbers to their side? Cite verse.
21.
  - A. What things from these verses serve as proof that those who heard King Benjamin's speech and reacted to it by saying "We have no more disposition to do evil," (Mosiah 5:2) nevertheless, did eventually commit sin? (You may want to put this reference next to the Mosiah 5:2 scripture for future reference.) Cite verses.
  - B. If being born again does not mean that you never again sin, what change does it make in a believer?
22. What is the model for receiving answers from the Lord given in verses 13 and 14?

### **Fourth Reading: Mosiah 26: 15-39**

23.
  - A. What are the reasons listed here that Alma is said to be blessed?
  - B. What are the reasons that the people are blessed?

24. How do you “bear the name of Jesus Christ” in your daily living?

25. What did the Lord say to do with “transgressors” in the church?

26. A. Look at verse 21 through verse 28. Why do you think that the Lord says that “hearing my voice” or “not hearing my voice” is the way in which he decides whether to “receive” us or not?

B. Are you hearing the voice of the Lord in your life? How?

C. Can you sit in sacrament meeting and conference and hear the words spoken and yet not “hear the voice of the Lord”? How?

D. Verse 24 says, “if they know me they shall come forth, and shall have a place eternally at my right hand.” These references closely echo King Benjamin’s words from earlier in our study: Mosiah 5:12 I would that ye should remember to retain the name written always in your hearts, that ye are not found on the left hand of God, but that ye hear and know the voice by which ye shall be called, and also, the name by which he shall call you. 13 For how knoweth a man the master whom he has not served, and who is a stranger unto him, and is far from the thoughts and intents of his heart?”

What are some ways you see from Alma’s life that he came to know the master he served and became acquainted with his voice?

27. A. What personal knowledge did Alma receive about his own standing with God in the answer to his prayer about transgression in the church? Cite verse.

B. What can we learn from this about coming to the Lord in prayer for help in our callings, with our family problems, etc.?

28. A. How often is Jesus Christ willing to forgive repentant sinners?

B. What happens to us when we refuse to forgive someone who has wronged us “when he says that he repents”? Cite verse from this reading and any other verses that you know that apply.

29. From the end of this chapter, list at least 7 actions that Alma and the other church leaders made a part of their ministry.