

Lesson 3: Mosiah 1-2

First Reading: Mosiah 1:1-7

1.
 - a) King Benjamin lived in the land of _____.
 - b) What do you remember about how the Nephites got to this place?

2.
 - a) List the two reasons given for Benjamin teaching his sons the language of the Egyptians.

b) We see that the king's sons were taught to read and write. In this pre-Columbian society, do you think the common person had these skills? How would living the gospel be different if most people couldn't read or write?

 - c) What does this make you grateful for?

3.
 - a) What does King Benjamin say would have been the result if they didn't have the brass plates—their version of the scriptures?

b) What difference does it make in your life when you "have his commandments always before [your] eyes" (Mosiah 1:5)?

Second Reading: Mosiah 1:8-18

4. What reasons does Benjamin give for making his special address to the people?

5.
 - a) Always hanging over the Nephites' heads was the condition set by the Lord that if they "fell into transgression and became a wicked and an adulterous people" that the Lord would no longer provide protection for them from their enemies. ("adulterous" in scripture means being unfaithful to God as well as unfaithful to a marriage partner) How does this condition operate in our lives when there are no Lamanites waiting to destroy us?

b) Read 1 Nephi 15:24 and Helaman 5:12. In light of these scriptures, who is your enemy and how does it affect your life to have such an enemy?

c) Do we still need the "arm of God's preservation" from our "enemy"? Explain.

6. What three tokens of Nephite royalty did Benjamin pass down to his son, and do you think these things continued to be used?

7. Mosiah 1:17 tells what happened when the Nephites were "unfaithful." Do you think these same conditions apply to the Latter-day Saints today? Explain.

Third Reading: Mosiah 2:1-10

Reading Notes: *It helps to know about the Israelite harvest festival of Sukkot or Feast of Tabernacles to add understanding to this chapter. Sukkot was their feast of Autumn thanksgiving. The word means "huts" or "booths" in Hebrew. This refers to the temporary shelters put up by the Israelites during the Exodus. This was one of three great feasts of obligation in which all males were supposed to appear "before the Lord" at the temple. During this holiday, the people made temporary shelters or booths out of branches to live in, which reminded them of the way God had provided for them during the Exodus. This feast comes 10 days after Yom Kippur, the feast of Atonement, when the people seek forgiveness for their sins. Look for some of these elements. Some scholars feel that King Benjamin's speech was given during a Nephite version of the feast of Sukkot.*

8. What did the people do to offer thanks, and what does the record say they were thankful for?

9. CHALLENGE QUESTION: a) Using the dates at the bottom of the pages of the Book of Mormon, how many years had the Nephite nation existed by this time?

b) Using 1776 as a beginning, how many years has America existed as a nation? (Use similar dates for your own country if it is different.)

c) What do you think it meant to them to be grateful to God "who had brought them out of the land of Jerusalem." Did they know anything about Jerusalem by then?

10. The people appeared to have a very good national memory, especially impressive for people who were most likely illiterate for the most part.

a) How do you think they kept the national memory alive through all these generations?

b) How important is it to keep our own national and family histories in the minds of our children and grandchildren?

11. What did the people stay in and where did they set up camp?

12. King Benjamin asks the people to hearken by opening their ears, hearts, and minds. What does it mean in regard to spiritual things to:

a) have open ears

b) have an open heart

c) have an open mind

Fourth Reading: Mosiah 2:11-26

13. List some of King Benjamin's accomplishments, or, in other words, what kind of a king has he been?

14. How different do you think he was from a typical ancient king, such as a Roman Emperor or a Babylonian king? Explain.

15. What things does King Benjamin want us to learn from his example?

16. What does King Benjamin remind the people to get them in a humble frame of mind? Cite verses.

Fifth Reading: Mosiah 2:27-41

17. Verses 32 and 33 use the word "list" or "listeth." This means *enlist*. He warns against contentions arising among the people. How does getting involved in contention cause us to *enlist* "to obey the evil spirit?" Please look up 3 *Nephi* 11:29 and use this information in your answer.

18. a) In verse 36 Benjamin explains that it is not the Holy Spirit that leaves people who have had gospel principles taught to them, but that "ye do withdraw yourselves from the Spirit of the Lord." See also D&C 29:45. What do these scriptures teach us about our responsibility for our own spiritual state?

B) What wages do we receive for serving God? The devil?

19. What have you found helpful to keep you from inadvertently "withdrawing yourself" from the Spirit of the Lord? Without even being aware, you find yourself going backwards, downhill, downstream, carried by the currents. What do you do to hold your ground and go forward, when the currents all around us are trying to take us away from God?