

# Book of Mormon Study – Mosiah 25-28

Online zoom Sunday School, 24 May 2020

## Children of Amulon

### *Mosiah 25:12*

In 24:8, Amulon's children (who would have been children from the Lamanite women that were taken) persecuted Alma's children. Did some of these end up joining Alma when they escaped? Or were they the possible children of Amulon that could have remained behind with the people of Limhi (20:3)? If they were the latter, then they would already be considered seed of Nephi, but if the former, then they would have more reason to want to change their identity to become associated with seed of Nephi.

If it was considered taboo to mix blood with with the other race (see 2 Ne 5:22-23, Alma 3:7-8), then this would be more reason to want to identify with the seed of Nephi. (See also other examples from Gen 24:3, 28:1-2)

On the other hand, we read in the next verse what it means to be numbered among those who were called Nephites (25:13):

*And now all the people of Zarahemla were numbered with the Nephites, and this because the kingdom had been conferred upon none but those who were descendants of Nephi.*

## From the book God's Chosen People of America

*In the very beginning the world was created by Sotuknang under the command of Taiowa, the Great Spirit. Spider Woman, whose real name was Kokyangwuti, was given to Sotuknang for a help mate. She was commanded to create life upon this earth. This is the reason she is called "Spider Woman" because she is the mother of all living, and all life on this earth is in her web.*

*The first two beings created by Spider Woman were twins whom she called Poqanghoya and Palangawhoya. Poqanghoya was sent to the north pole, and Palangawhoya was sent to the south pole to keep the world properly rotating on its axis...*

*After Spider Woman created the Polar Twins she created male and female in the four pure colors, i.e., black, white, red, and yellow. The male beings were patterned after the image of Sotuknang and the female after her own image. The four colors of people were moulded out of the clay of the earth. Each color of people was given his own language and sent to the four directions of the earth. Each was warned to stay in his own location and not mix his blood with anyone other than his own pure color. If each would do this and keep the commandments each would remain a pure and good people. The Hopi say crime set in when they disobeyed their commandments*

*and races started mixing their blood with those of another color. Trouble started with the mixed breeds. (Zula Brinkerhoff, God's Chosen People of America, 1971, pg 239-240)*

*The Remnant of "God's Chosen People" has circled the earth several times to claim the earth for the Great Creator. Now the Indians are returning to the point of beginning according to their sign. Tribes from all over the world are waiting for the next sign when they will migrate to Hopiland to stay. Each tribe that I have met has from 400 to 600 pure bloods in their tribe. Pure bloods must be Indians who have not mixed with any other race. (ibid pg 243)*

#### [Mosiah 25:14-15](#)

Mosiah, the king, finishes addressing the people, then asks Alma to teach them. Alma preaches to the separate bodies (earlier we read that they were gathered together in two bodies, vs 4).

Here we begin to see where king Mosiah starts to defer to Alma the responsibility over the spiritual affairs of the people.

#### Baptism and Organization of a Church

##### [Mosiah 25:17-18](#)

Limhi and his people desire to be baptized and Alma baptizes them.

*...and as many as he did baptize did belong to the church of God; and this because of their belief on the words of Alma.*

Those who were baptized were then considered part of the church or assembly of God.

Later in 26:36 we read:

*And those that would not confess their sins and repent of their iniquity, the same were not numbered among the people of the church, and their names were blotted out.*

Was this a physical removal of a name from some list? King Benjamin talks about taking on the name of Christ and that you can have this name blotted out of your heart through transgression (see Mosiah 5:10-11). In Mosiah 6:1-2 we read that king Benjamin took the names of those who entered into the covenant.

Alma had organized the assemblies as described in 18:17-18 (cf 21:34). This is the first time in the Book of Mormon where baptism is associated with belonging to an assembly or church of God. So Limhi and his people desired to now belong to this assembly. We see no mention where any other of Mosiah's people desire to be baptized by Alma. It appears they already had this ordinance (cf Ammon's reaction in 21:33-34). The authority rested with Mosiah and within his kingdom, but what appears to be new is the association of baptism with belonging to an assembly or church. Therefore, my assumption is that, like king Benjamin did in taking names of those who entered into a covenant, Alma likewise is taking

names of those who enter a covenant through baptism, and by this they joined themselves to the church of God.

#### *Mosiah 25:19-20*

Here we begin to see a separation between the affairs of the church and the affairs of government. Keep in mind under Law of Moses (as we see in ancient Israel), there was no such separation. The law that governed the people in their secular lives was the same as the law that governed their spiritual lives. Mosiah gives Alma authority or power to go throughout the land and baptize and organize assemblies of churches. (see verses 21-22)

#### *Mosiah 25:23*

*And it came to pass that whosoever were desirous to take upon them the name of Christ, or of God, they did join the churches of God; and they were called the people of God.*

#### *Mosiah 26:7-12*

The organization of the church opens the door to relieve king Mosiah from responsibilities related to spiritual affairs of the people because he can now delegate such things to Alma.

#### *Mosiah 26:9*

Notice that in the original 1829-1830 printer's manuscript of the Book of Mormon there are some word differences in this verse:

*And it came to pass that Alma did ~~not~~ know concerning them; **but for** there were many witnesses against them; yea, the people stood and testified of their iniquity in abundance.*

### Alma calling and election

#### *Mosiah 26:14-20*

Here we see Alma inquiring about a problem with how to deal with issues that have arisen as a result of the organization of a church. What he received from the Lord was so much more.

Look at the brother of Jared for example. He went to the Lord to inquire about a practical matter. And the Lord in response to the inquiry about the lighting, first of all, asks the brother of Jared if he will believe Him. The Lord asked the brother of Jared if he would accept the words, (in other words, the covenant) which the Lord would then offer to this man. Once he agreed to the conditions, the Lord gives him a revelation containing all of God's revelations a mortal is permitted to receive.

What the brother of Jared received in the revelation had nothing to do with the original problem that brought him in prayer to the Lord. He wanted to solve a lighting problem inside a barge. The revelation has nothing to do with the lighting problem inside the barge. It contained instead all of God's revelations.

Similarly, when Joseph Smith went into the Sacred Grove he was trying to find out which church to join. In answer to the inquiry about which church to join, he was told to join none of them, and that they were all corrupt, and he would be the means of bringing something else about.

Later, when Joseph prayed to find out what his state and standing was before the Lord, and the angel Moroni came and disposed of Joseph's inquiry very perfunctorily, telling him to "fear not" and then went on to tell him about everything the Lord had as an agenda, including the plates of the Book of Mormon.

The subject someone asks about when they go to the Lord does not necessarily then control the content of what the Lord will reveal. Likewise, when Joseph made the inquiry about the plurality of wives, the Lord took it as an opportunity to talk about something more important.

## Church discipline

*Mosiah 26:21-39*

*For behold, this is my church; whosoever is baptized shall be baptized unto repentance. And whomsoever ye receive shall believe in my name; and him will I freely forgive. (verse 22)*

Compare with:

*Behold, this is my doctrine—whosoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church. Whosoever declareth more or less than this, the same is not of me, but is against me; therefore he is not of my church. (D&C 10:67-68)*

Is there a tendency in the church to over complicate or institutionalize things with church courts? How might we compare that with what we see here in these verses in Alma?

What do scriptures say about discipline of leaders?

*"In His infinite wisdom, God has seen fit to include, in His checks and balances, provision for the trial by the Church of even the President of the Church if he transgresses. Though this procedure has not been used within the Church, yet the fact that the Master included the provision in His plan for Church government indicates that the possibility that the Prophet may transgress is a real one:*

*And inasmuch as a President of the High Priesthood shall transgress, he shall be had in remembrance before the common council of the church, who shall be assisted by twelve counselors of the High Priesthood; And their decision upon his head shall be an end of controversy concerning him. Thus, none shall be exempted from the justice and the laws of God, that all things may be done in order and in solemnity before him, according to truth and righteousness. (D&C 107:82-84)*

*He also provides a way for the Church to judge the Quorum of the Twelve and the First Council of the Seventy in the event they make unrighteous decisions". (Thus Saith the Lord, pg 71)*

Why do we expect that God will violate one man's free agency and remove him from his place as church leader should he choose to attempt to lead the church astray, when provision is given in the scriptures God has given us to do the removing?

*Mosiah 27:4-5*

Priests labor with their own hands for their support.

*Mosiah 27:8*

Alma was an idolotrous man. What does it mean to be an idoloter?

Idol

Anything that separates mankind from the Lamb of God. Cast it aside, and come to Him. Why we have idols between us and the Lord is as different as one person is from another. Almost without exception, it comes as a result of a false tradition handed down. False traditions are based on each person's life experiences. No matter what they are or how they were acquired, whatever separates Christ from you must be set aside. Come to Him because only He can save you.

*Mosiah 27:11-13*

The angel speaks to them and they don't understand. Then the Angel speaks again and they understand. Is this coming through 2 degrees? from Terrestrial to a Telestial?

They were going about "rebelling against God" (27:11), compare with Mosiah 2:36-37

*Mosiah 27:28*

Alma is saved from an everlasting burning.

*"A man is his own tormentor and his own condemner. Hence the saying, 'They shall go into the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.' The torment of disappointment in the mind of man is as exquisite as a lake burning with fire and brimstone. I say, so is the torment of man. (TPJS pg 357)*

Moroni tells us we would rather be with the damned souls in Hell than be in Gods presence unworthy (Mormon 9:4).

*Mosiah 27:32*

Alma having been persecutor, now becomes persecuted. This is part of what it means to be Christlike. As Disciples of Christ we must expect to be given opportunities to forgive others.

*Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be*

*exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (Matt. 5:10-12.)*