

## Chapter 2

{Original 1830 Chapter 1 – continued}

*Amlici Perpetuates the Profession of Nehor  
Amlici Seeks Kingship*

1 And **it came to pass**

in the commencement

of the fifth year of their [judges'] reign

[over the **people** of Nephi]

aa

there **began to be** a **contention**

01

among the **people**

for a certain **man**

being called **Amlici**

[pronounced Amaleki ?]

bb

**he** being a very **cunning man**

**yea** [he being] a **wise man**

as to the **wisdom of the world**

**he** being after the **order**

of the **man** [Nehor]

that **slew Gideon**

by the **sword**

**who** was **executed**  
accord**ing** to the **law**

2 **Now** this **Amlici** had

by his **cunning**

**drawn away** MUCH **people**

{AG}

after **him**

even so MUCH

that **they** **began to** **be** very powerful

and **they** **began to** endeavor

to **establish** **Amlici**

to be **king**

over the **people**

[Par. aa – Like “paragraph” (chronological) beginnings and endings]

[Heb. 01 – Use of “began to be”]

[Par. bb – Circular repetition “being”]

[Alma 2]

3 **Now** this was alarming to the **people**  
of the **church**  
and also to ALL those **[people]**  
**who** had NOT been **drawn away**  
after the **persuasions**  
of **Amlici**

for they \_\_\_\_\_ knew [Reasoning] R  
that \_\_\_\_\_ according to their **law** [Law] L  
that such **things** MUST be **established**  
by the **voice**  
of the **people**

4 **Therefore**  
**if** it were possible  
**that** [he] **Amlici** should **gain** the **voice**  
of the **people**  
[then] he [**Amlici**] being a **wicked man**  
would **deprive** them [opposites]  
[the **people**]  
of their **rights** cc  
**and** [of their] **privileges**  
of the **church** &c [deleted in 1920]

for it was his **intent**  
to **destroy** the **church**  
of **God**

5 **And it came to pass**  
**that** the people **assembled** themselves  
together **throughout ALL** **the land**  
EVERY man according to his **mind**  
whether it were for **[Amlici]** [opposites]  
**or** against **Amlici**  
in **separate bodies** [opposites]  
hav----ing **MUCH** **dispute** {AG}  
and **wonderful contentions** [see note] {AL}  
one with another

[Note: The term "wonderful" means emotionally surprising (see Deuteronomy 28:59: "Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful").]

[Par. cc – Word pair]

6 **And thus** they **did** **assemble** themselves together  
to **cast in** their **voices**  
concerning the matter  
**and** they [their **voices**]  
were **laid** before the **judges**

7 **And it came to pass** **that** the **voice**  
of the **people**  
**came** against **Amlici**  
**that he** was NOT **made** **king**  
over the **people**

8 **Now** this **did** **cause** MUCH **joy** 02  
in the **hearts** 03  
of **those**  
**who** were \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_ **him**

**but** [he] **Amlici**  
**did** \_\_\_\_\_ stir up \_\_\_\_\_ **those**  
**who** were \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ **his favor**  
to **anger** against **those**  
**who** were NOT in \_\_\_\_\_ **his favor**

~~~ The Amlicite [Amalekite?] War Begins

9 **And it came to pass**  
**that they** gathered themselves together  
**and** [they] **did** **consecrate** **Amlici**  
to **be** their **king**

10 **Now**  
**when** [he] **Amlici**  
was **made** **king**  
over them  
**he** [Amlici] **commanded** them

[Heb. 02 – Use of “did cause”]  
[Heb. 03 – Plurals “hearts”]

[Alma 2]

that they should take up arms  
against their brethren  
and \_\_\_\_\_ this  
he [Amlici] did [do]  
that he [Amlici] might subject them  
[their brethren]  
to him

11 Now the people  
of Amlici  
were distinguished  
by the name of Amlici  
being called Amlicites [Amlikites - P] [Amalekites?]

and the remainder  
were \_\_\_\_\_ called \_\_\_\_\_ Nephites  
or the people  
of God

[Note\* The term "Nephites" is qualified. In Jacob 1:14, Jacob said: "I shall call them Lamanites that seek to destroy the people of Nephi, and those who are friendly to Nephi I shall call Nephites, or the people of Nephi."]

12 Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ the people  
of the Nephites  
were aware of the intent  
of the Amlicites

and therefore they did prepare to meet them  
yea they did arm themselves  
with swords  
and with cimeters  
and with bows  
and with arrows  
and with stones  
and with slings  
and with ALL manner  
of weapons  
of war  
of EVERY kind

04  
dd  
ee

[Heb. 04 – Repetition of prepositions "with"]

[Par. dd – Enumeration]

[Par. ee – Many "and"s]

13 **And thus** **they** were **prepared** to meet **the Amlicites** **at the time**  
of **their coming**

**And** there **were** **appointed** **captains** ["was" – P] {AG} ff  
and **higher captains**  
and **chief captains**  
according to **their numbers**

14 **And it came to pass**

**that** [he] **Amlici** **did** **arm** **his men**  
with ALL manner  
**of weapons** 05  
**of war**  
**of** EVERY kind

**and** **he** [Amlici] **also** **appointed** **rulers**  
and **leaders**  
over **his people**  
**to** **lead them** **to war** \*\*  
**against** their **brethren**

15 **And it came to pass**

**that** **the Amlicites** **came** **up upon** **the Hill Amnihu** [del. 1837]  
which **was east of** **the River Sidon**  
which **ran by** **the land of Zarahemla**

**And there**

**they** **began to** **make** \_\_\_\_\_ **war**  
with the **Nephites**

16 **Now**

[he] **Alma**  
**being** the **chief judge**  
**and** [being] the **governor** of the **people**  
of **Nephi**

**therefore** **he** [Alma] **went up** with **his** **people** 07  
**yea** [he] **Alma** **went up]**with **his** **captains**  
and [with **his**] **chief captains**

[Par. ff – Like endings “captains”]

[Heb. 05 – Consecutive prepositions “of”]

[Heb. \*\* – Noun & verb with the same root “lead”]

[Heb. 06 – Compound prepositions “up upon”]

[Heb. 07 – Repetition of possessives “his”]

[Alma 2]

**yea** [he Alma *went up*] at the **head**  
of his **armies**  
against the Amlicites gg  
to **battle**

17 **And** **they** began to slay the Amlicites  
*upon the hill*  
*east of Sidon*

**And** the Amlicites did contend with the Nephites hh  
with GREAT strength  
in so MUCH [strength]  
**that** MANY of the Nephites  
did fall before the Amlicites

18 **Nevertheless** the Lord did strengthen the hand\* [power] 08  
of the Nephites

**that** **they** slaw the Amlicites  
with <sup>^a / [ ]</sup> GREAT slaughter [<sup>^P / 1905</sup>] 09

**that** **they**  
[the Amlicites] began to flee before **them**  
[the Nephites]

19 **And** it came to pass  
**that** the Nephites did pursue the Amlicites **ALL that day**  
**and** [the Nephites] did slay them in so MUCH

**that** there were slain of the Amlicites [“was” – P] {AG}  
twelve thousand five hundred thirty and two  
souls 10

**and** there were slain of the Nephites  
six thousand five hundred sixty and two  
souls 11

[Note: The number “twelve” is twice the number “six,” but the number “thirty” is half of “sixty.”]

[Par. gg – Like endings “the Amlicites”]

[Par. hh – Like endings “the Nephites”]

[Heb. 08 – Metaphor “hand”]

[Heb. 09 – Verb and noun with the same root?]

[Heb. 10 – Use of “and” between number units]

[Heb. 11 – Number play]

20 And **it came to pass**

that **when** [he] **Alma** could **pursue** **the Amlicites** **NO longer**

he [Alma] **caused that**

12

[A] **his people** should **pitch** their **tents**

ii

[B] **in the valley of Gideon**

**the valley**

being **called** after that **Gideon**  
**who** was **slain** by the **hand**  
of **Nehor**  
with the **sword**

13

[A] **the Nephites** **did** **pitch** **and in this valley**  
their **tents** **for the night**

~~~ *The Amlicites & Lamanites March to the West Bank of Sidon*

21 **And** [he] **Alma** **sent** spies

jj

to **follow** of the remnant  
**the Amlicites**

that he [Alma] **might** **know** of their **plans**  
and their **plots**

whereby he [Alma] **might** **guard** **himself**  
against **them**

that he [Alma] **might** **preserve** **his people**  
from being **destroyed**

22 **Now** **those** whom

[see Note]

he [Alma] had **sent out**

to **watch** of **the camp**  
**the Amlicites**

were **called** **Zeram**  
**and Amnor**  
**and Manti**  
**and Limher**

kk

[Heb. 12 – Use of “caused that”]  
[Par. ii – Inverse or reverse parallelism]  
[Heb. 13 – Metaphor “hand”]

[Par. jj – Like beginnings “he Alma”]  
[Par. kk – Distribution]

[Alma 2]

[Now] **these** were  
 [A] **they** who *went out* with their **men** LL  
 [B] to watch  
 [C] of the camp  
the Amlicites

23 And **it came to pass**

that **on the morrow**  
 [A] **they** *returned into*  
 [B] *the camp*  
 [C] of the **Nephites**  
 [they being]in GREAT **haste** mm  
 [they being] GREATLY astonished 14  
 and [they being] struck **with** MUCH fear  
saying

24 **Behold we**

*followed* *the camp*  
 of the Amlicites  
 and to our GREAT astonishment  
*in the land of Minon*  
*above the land of Zarahemla* 15  
*in the course of the land of Nephi*

[Note: The word "course" implies a somewhat recognized "trail" coming from or going toward the land of Nephi.]

**we** saw a numerous host  
 of **the Lamanites**  
 and **behold**  
**the Amlicites** have joined **them**

25 **And they** are upon our **brethren**  
*in that land*

[A] **and they** are *fleeing* before **them** nn  
 [B] with **their flocks** [duality] \*\*  
 [B] **and** [with] **their wives**  
 [B] **and** [with] **their children**

[A] **and they** are *fleeing* before **them**  
*towards our city [of Zarahemla]*  
 and **EXCEPT** we make [GREAT] **haste**

[Par. LL – Extended alternating parallelism]

[Par. mm – Like beginnings "they being"]

[Heb. 14 – Repeated hyperbole "GREAT, MUCH"]

[Heb. 15 – Separated prepositions "in, of, above, of"]

[Par. nn – Inverse or turning around parallelism]

[Heb. \*\* -- Repetition of possessive "their"]



they [shall] obtain possession of our city [of Zarahemla]

And our fathers  
and our wives  
and our children

[shall] be slain

26 And **it came to pass**

that the people of Nephi *took* their tents  
and *departed* out of the valley of *Gideon*  
*towards* their city  
*which was the city of Zarahemla*

27 And **behold**

as they were *crossing* the river *Sidon*  
the Lamanites  
and the Amlicites

be-ing as numerous almost oo

as it were

as the sands of the sea 17

[the Lamanites  
and the Amlicites  
to *came* upon them  
[the Nephites]  
to *destroy* them

28 Nevertheless

the Nephites  
be-ing strengthened  
by the hand  
of the Lord

having prayed mightily [Prayer] P 18

that He [the Lord] would deliver them  
out of the hands  
of their enemies

**therefore** [He] the Lord did hear their cries

[Heb. 16 – Repetition of possessive “our”]

[Par. oo – Acrostic]

[Heb. 17 – Simile “as”]

[Heb. 18 – A wish or a prayer]

[Alma 2]

and [He the Lord] did strengthen them  
and the Lamanites  
and the Amlicites did fall before them

29 And it came to pass

[A] that [he] Alma fought with Amlici  
with the sword \*\*  
[B] face to face

[A] and they did contend mightily  
[B] one with another

30 And it came to pass

that [he] Alma  
being a man of God  
being exercised with MUCH faith  
cried  
saying 19

O Lord have mercy  
and spare my life

that I [Alma]  
may be an instrument  
in Thy hands  
to save  
and protect / this people [P / ^1830 – see KJV]  
^preserve

31 Now when [he] Alma had said these words pp  
he [Alma] contended again qq  
with Amlici

and he [Alma] was strengthened  
in so MUCH  
that he [Alma] slew Amlici  
with the sword

[Par. \*\* -- Simple alternating parallelism]

[Heb. 19 – A wish or a prayer]

[Par. pp – Like beginnings “he Alma”]

[Par. qq – Circular repetition “contended”]

32 And he [Alma] also contended  
 with the King of the Lamanites  
 but the King of the Lamanites  
fled back

from before  
Alma

And [the King of the Lamanites]  
 sent his guards  
 to contend

with Alma

33 But [he] Alma with his guards  
contended  
 with the guards  
 of the King of the Lamanites

until he [Alma] slew  
 and drove them back

34 **And thus** he [Alma] cleared the ground  
 >or rather the bank rr  
 which was *on the west of the river Sidon* ss

throwing the bodies  
 of the Lamanites  
who had been slain *into the waters*  
*of Sidon* 20

that **thereby** his people  
 might have room

to *cross*  
 and [to] contend with the Lamanites  
 and [with] the Amlicites  
*on the west side*  
*of the river Sidon*

[Par. rr – Clarification]

[Par. ss – Like endings “Sidon”]

[Heb. 20 – Two nouns connected by “of” = adjective]

~~~~ Lamanites & Amlicites Are Scattered to the West and North

35 And **it came to pass**

**that when** they  
[the **Nephites**] had ALL crossed \_\_\_\_\_ *the river **Sidon***

**that** the **Lamanites**  
**and** the **Amlicites**  
**began to** flee before **them**

NOTwithstanding

**that** they were so numerous tt  
they could NOT be numbered

36 **And** they fled before **the Nephites**  
*towards the wilderness* uu

*which [wilderness] was west  
and north  
away beyond the borders  
of the land*

**and** the **Nephites** did pursue them  
with their **might**  
**and** [the **Nephites**] did slay them

37 **Yea** they were met **on** **EVERY** **hand** [all around at every point] 21

**and** slain  
**and** driven  
**until** they were scattered *on the west*  
*and on the north*

**until** they had reached the wilderness  
*which was called **Hermounts***

**and** **it** was *that* *part of* the wilderness  
which was infested  
by wild  
**and** ravenous beasts

[Par. tt – Synonymous parallelism]

[Par. uu – Circular repetition “wilderness”]

[Heb. 21 – Idiom]

38 And **it came to pass**

that **MANY** \_\_\_\_\_ died in **the wilderness**  
of their wounds

and [MANY] were devoured  
by those \_\_\_\_\_ **beasts**  
**and** also [by the \_\_\_\_\_ **vultures** of the air

and **their bones**  
have been found

and [their bones]  
have been heaped **up on the earth**

22

[Heb. 22 – Compound preposition “up on”]

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007:227), **Alma 2:22** can be seen as a **chiastic parallelism**. The structure is as follows:

22 A Now those whom he had sent out to watch the camp of the Amlicites  
B were called Zeram, and Amnor, and Manti, and Limher;  
B these were they who went out with their men  
A to watch the camp of the Amlicites.

[Note: According to H. Clay Gorton (*A New Witness for Christ: Chiastic Structures in the Book of Mormon*), one can see **chiastic parallelism** from the perspective of both “conceptual” and “literal” (word) parallels. On page 353 he presents a chiastic structure for **Alma 2:36-37**. What follows below is my adaptation of his model.

36 A **And they fled** before the **Nephites towards the wilderness**  
B **which was west and north**  
C **away beyond the borders of the land**  
D **and the Nephites did pursue them with their **might****  
E **and did slay them**  
37 F **Yea they were met **on EVERY** hand**  
E **and slain**  
D **and [the Lamanites were] driven**  
C **until they were scattered [away]**  
B **on the west and on the north**  
A **until they had reached \_\_\_\_\_ **the wilderness****

[Alma 2]

[Note: **Some Comments on the Name "Sidon"**

According to Verneil Simmons,

*a study of the historical situation at the fall of Jerusalem quickly reveals that the only part of the country not under control of Nebuchadnezzar were the two Phoenician cities of Tyre and Sidon. They were still free, but not to remain at liberty for long. The prophet Isaiah, more than a century earlier, had foreseen the time when Tyre should be destroyed and he spoke of those who should flee their cities to the western colonies by ship (see Isaiah 23:1,2,5-7). The merchants of Tyre and Sidon, the two great cities of Phoenicia, referred to themselves as Sidonians. These merchant-ships were capable of circumnavigating the continent of Africa, as described by the historian, Herodotus. It takes little imagination to tell us that when the siege machines moved up to attack the wall of Tyre, many of the inhabitants fled aboard ships headed for the western colonies on the Atlantic.*

*Did a little group of people fleeing from Jerusalem [the "Mulekites"—ancestors of the people of Zarahemla] find their way westward in such a colony? Knowing that the sailors of Phoenicia called themselves Sidonians, it is difficult to escape the conclusion that this river running by where the people of Zarahemla had settled came by its name because colonists from Tyre or Sidon had originally been part of the [Mulekite] group of settlers that arrived in the New World.*

*Once the Sidonian sailors had sailed the length of the Mediterranean, the westward drifting warm equatorial currents, aided by the prevailing northeast and southeast tradewinds, make the crossing of the Atlantic an easy matter at this latitude. The celebrated voyages of the Ra 1 and Ra 2 from the tip of Morocco in Northern Africa across the Atlantic to the Caribbean, as carried out by Thor Heyerdahl in 1970 and 1971, demonstrate that the currents will carry a primitive boat from the Mediterranean to the Caribbean basin in less than sixty days.*

*Whatever lingering doubts we might have about the origin of the name "Sidon" and about the presence of Phoenicians in Mesoamerica disappear when we discover that the ancient art of dyeing cloth with the famous purple dye of the Phoenicians was well known in Mesoamerica. In the Isthmus of Tehuantepec the Indians know how to extract the dye from the sea snail, in the same process developed in Phoenicia centuries ago, and they obtain the same royal purple color. An excretion is taken from tiny sea snails at just certain times of the year. It is then applied to hanks of yarn, which are next dipped in sea water and then spread out in the sun to wait for the yarn to turn the color of imperial purple. The very complicated process is a most unlikely candidate for independent invention. Examples of such dyed cloth can be viewed today in Mexico City's anthropological Museum. It is said that one can always identify the genuine article by the fishy smell that clings to the cloth for years. Incidentally, the name Sidon meant "fishing" or "fishery." (Verneil W. Simmons, Peoples, Places and Prophecies, p. 97-98.)*

*John Welch notes that the use of the name "Sidon" in the Book of Mormon (without any mention of the name "Tyre") is in complete harmony with the Old World time period for Lehi (and those who might have accompanied Mulek—the "Mulekites").*

*During this time, Israel's rulers formed an alliance with Egypt against their traditional enemy, Babylon. . . One of Babylon's allies was Sidon; but Sidon's twin city, Tyre, had sided with Egypt. It is worthy of note that the name Tyre never appears in any form in the Book of Mormon, whereas in the Old Testament the two names are constantly linked; one hardly ever appears without the other. This apparent preference for Sidon over Tyre in the Book of Mormon fits perfectly into the world situation that Lehi knew. (Approach to the Book of Mormon, 1957, p. 52.) (John W. Welch, "A Book You Can Respect," Ensign, September 1977, p. 47.))*