

## Chapter 10

{Original 1830 Chapter VI – continued}

*Zeniff Continually Guards His People From Attack  
Through Much Work the People Begin to Prosper*

### 1 And **it came to pass**

that **we again began to** establish *the kingdom*  
and **we again began to** **possess** *the land*  
in peace

And I [Zeniff] **caused** aa  
that there should be weapons of **war** made 01  
of EVERY kind

that **thereby**  
I [Zeniff] might have weapons for **my people** bb  
against the **time** the Lamanites  
should come up **again**  
to **war**  
against **my people**

2 And I [Zeniff] set guards **round about** *the land*  
that the Lamanites  
might NOT come upon **us again** unawares  
and **destroy** **us**

**And thus** I [Zeniff] **did** guard **my people**  
and **my** flocks  
and [did] keep **them**  
from **falling** into **the hands**  
of **our** enemies

### 3 And **it came to pass**

that **we** **did** inherit *the land*  
of **our** fathers  
**for MANY years**  
**yea** **for the space of twenty and two years** 02

[Par. aa – Like beginnings “I Zeniff”]

[Heb. 01 – Two nouns connected by “of” = adjective]

[Par. bb – Like paragraph endings “my people”]

[Heb. 02 – Use of “and” between number units]

[Mosiah 10]

4 And I [Zeniff] did cause that the men should till the ground and [should] raise ALL manner of grain and [should] raise] ALL manner of fruit of EVERY kind 03 cc

5 And I [Zeniff] did cause that the women should spin and [should] toil and [should] work and [should] work ALL manner of fine linen yea and [should] work] cloth of EVERY kind that we might \_\_\_\_\_ clothe our nakedness And thus we did prosper in the land [And]thus we did have continual peace [see Mosiah 1:1; 7:1; 19:29] in the land for the space of twenty and two years \*\*

6 And it came to pass \_\_\_\_\_ that [he] king Laman died and his son began to reign \_\_\_\_\_ in his stead dd And he began to stir \_\_\_\_\_ his people up in rebellion against my people Therefore \_\_\_\_\_ they [the Lamanites] began to prepare for war and [they the Lamanites] began to prepare] to come up to battle against my people

[Heb. 03 – Use of “did cause that”]  
[Par. cc – Circular repetition “should”]  
[Par. dd – Circular repetition “began to”]

[Par. \*\* -- Resumptive repetition —see v. 3]

7 But I [Zeniff] had sent my spies out **round about** *the Land of Shemlon*  
 that I [Zeniff] might discover their preparations

that I [Zeniff] might guard against them [the Lamanites]  
 that they [the Lamanites]  
 might NOT come upon **my people**  
 and destroy them

8 And **it came to pass** \_\_\_\_\_ that they [the Lamanites]  
*came up*  
*upon the north of the land of Shilom*  
 with their numerous hosts

men armed with bows ee  
 and with arrows ff  
 and with swords 04  
 and with cimeters  
 and with stones  
 and with slings

and they had their heads shaved  
 that they were naked 05  
 and they were **girded** with a leathern **girdle**  
 about their loins

9 And **it came to pass**  
 that I [Zeniff] **caused that**  
 the women  
 and [the] children of **my people**  
 should be hid in *the wilderness*  
 and I [Zeniff] also **caused that** ALL **my old men**  
 that could \_\_\_\_\_ bear arms  
 and [I Zeniff] also **caused that** ALL **my young men**  
 that were able to bear arms  
 should gather themselves together  
 to **go [up]** to \_\_\_\_\_ **battle**  
 against \_\_\_\_\_ the Lamanites

[Par. ee – Enumeration]

[Heb. 05 – Verb and noun with the same root]

[Par. ff – Many “and”s]

[Heb. 04 – Repetition of possessives]

[Mosiah 10]

and I [Zeniff] did place them in their ranks  
EVERY man  
according to his age

10 And it came to pass

that we did go up to battle [First statement – see v. 19] {AG}  
against the Lamanites gg

and I [Zeniff]  
even I [Zeniff] in my old age

did go up to battle  
against the Lamanites

And it came to pass

that we did go up in the strength of the Lord hh  
to battle  
[against the Lamanites]

*The Curse of False Traditions*  
[Zeniff comments - Mos. 10:11-20]

11 Now the Lamanites  
knew NOTHING concerning the Lord  
NOR [concerning] the strength of the Lord

Therefore they [the Lamanites]  
depended upon their own strength

Yet they [the Lamanites]  
were a strong people  
as to the strength of men

12 They [the Lamanites]  
were a wild  
and [a] ferocious  
and a blood thirsty people

[Par. gg – Like endings “the Lamanites”]  
[Par. hh – Circular repetition “strength”]

believing in the tradition of their fathers [Laman & Lemuel] ii  
 which is this  
 believing that they were driven out of the land of Jerusalem  
 because of the iniquities of their fathers [Lehi, & Ishmael?]  
 and [believing] that they were wronged [while] in the wilderness by their brethren [Nephi, Sam]  
 and [believing that] they were also wronged while crossing the sea  
 13 And again [believing] that they were wronged [3 times wronged = superlative] while in the Land of Their First Inheritance after they had crossed the sea

And [But] ALL this [really happened] because that [he] Nephi was MORE faithful in keeping the commandments of the Lord 06  
 07

therefore he [Nephi] was favored of the Lord [see 1 Ne. 1:1; 3:6; 17:35] 08  
 for the Lord heard his prayers and [the Lord] answered them

And [thus] he [Nephi] took the lead of their journey in the wilderness

[Nephi had a covenant relationship with the Lord, which was a mystery to Laman and Lemuel.]

14 And [A<sub>1</sub>] his [Nephi's] brethren were wrath with him jj  
 [B<sub>1</sub>] because they understood NOT the dealings of the Lord  
 [A<sub>2</sub>] they were also wrath with him ["was" - Ø] {AG}  
 upon the [GREAT] waters  
 [B<sub>2</sub>] because they hardened their hearts against the Lord

[Par. ii – Like beginnings “believing”]

[Heb. 06 – Use of “and” meaning “but”]

[Heb. 07 – Use of “because that”]

[Heb. 08 – Use of “of” meaning “by”]

[Par. jj – Alternating parallelism]

[Mosiah 10]

15 And again

[A<sub>3</sub>] they were **wroth**  
when they had **arrived** in *the promised land* [arriven to - P] {AG}

[B<sub>3</sub>] because **they said**  
that he [**Nephi**] had taken the **ruling of** the people  
out of **their hands** 09

and **they sought to kill** \_\_\_\_\_ **him**

16 And again

[A<sub>4</sub>] they were **wroth** with **him**

[B<sub>4</sub>] because [**they said**]  
[that] he [**Nephi**] **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 [**Nephi**] **robbed** them

17 **And thus**

\_\_\_\_\_ **they** have **taught** their **children**

[A] **that** they [**the Lamanites**]

kk

[B] **should** **hate** them [**the Nephites**]

[A] **and that** they [**the Lamanites**]

[B] **should** **murder** them [**the Nephites**]

[A] **and that** they [**the Lamanites**]

[B] **should** **rob** [them **the Nephites**]

[A] **and [that** they **the Lamanites**

[B] **should]** **plunder** them [**the Nephites**]

[A] **and [that** they **the Lamanites**

[B] **should]** **do ALL**

[that] they [**the Lamanites**]  
**could** to **destroy** them [**the Nephites**]

[Heb. 09 – Active participle + “of”]

[Par. kk – Repeated alternating]

**Therefore** \_\_\_\_\_ they [the Lamanites]  
 have an eternal **hatred**  
 towards the **children**  
 of **Nephi**

[Note: According to Donald Parry (2007:181), verse 17 above is an example of **chiasmatic parallelism**:

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

18 [And] for this very **cause** has **king Laman**  
 by **his cunning**  
*[same wording as in Mosiah 9:6, 10]*  
**and** [by **his**] **lying craftiness**  
**and** [by **his**] **fair promises**  
**deceived me**  
 that I [**Zeniff**] have brought this **my people** *up*  
*into this land*  
 that they [the Lamanites]  
 may **destroy** them  
**yea** and **we** have suffered **these MANY years**  
*in the land*

*The People of Zeniff Put Their Trust In the Lord*

19 **And now** I **Zeniff**  
**after** having told ALL these things  
 unto **my people**  
 concerning the Lamanites

[Mosiah 10]

I [Zeniff] did stimulate them  
to go [up] to battle [Resumptive repetition - see v. 10]  
with their mights ["s" deleted in 1830]  
putting their trust in the Lord

therefore we did contend with them [the Lamanites]  
face to face

20 And it came to pass

that we did drive them [the Lamanites]  
again  
out of our land

and we \_\_\_\_\_ slew them [the Lamanites]  
with a GREAT slaughter

[We] even [slew] so MANY  
that we did NOT number them [the Lamanites]

21 And it came to pass

that we \_\_\_\_\_ returned again  
to our own land

And my people  
again

began to tend their flocks

and [my people]  
again

began to till their ground

22 And now

I [Zeniff]  
being old  
did confer the kingdom  
upon one of my sons



**Therefore** I **[Zeniff]** **say** NO MORE

**And** may **the Lord** bless **my people**

10

**Amen**

{Original 1830 Chapter Break—end of Chapter VI}

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[Heb. 10 – A wish or a prayer]

[Note: Grant Hardy (*Understanding the Book of Mormon: A Reader’s Guide*, p. 131, 132, 301) writes:

*Zeniff does not seem to have been particularly eloquent, even though his account—with its poignant details, nicely timed disclosures, contrasts, and repetitions—makes for a coherent, well-constructed narrative. (The repetitions include:*

*spying (Mosiah 9:1, 10:7),  
possessing the land in peace (9:5, 10:1),  
tilling the ground (9:9, 10:4, 10:21),  
battling in the strength of the Lord (9:17, 10:10), and  
the cunning and craftiness of King Laman (9:10, 10:18) . . .*

*Perhaps the most likely reason Mormon slowed down and particularized his narrative at Zeniff’s founding of a colony was because it was a pivotal moment in Nephite history. Even though the colony eventually failed . . . Mormon knew that this settlement was the origin of both the Nephite Christian church and a line of prophets who would dominate the years leading up to the coming of Christ. These leaders included the two Almas, the two Helamans, and the two later Nephis.]*

*[Mosiah 10]*