

Chapter 11

{Original 1830 Chapter VII}

The Wickedness of King Noah Corrupts the Priest\King Manner of Rule

[Note: The record now changes from Zeniff's "first-person" style to that of Mormon the abridger.]

1 And **now** **it came to pass**

that [he] **Zeniff** conferred the kingdom
upon **Noah**
one of _____ **his sons**
therefore
[he] **Noah** **began to reign** in **his** stead aa
and he **[Noah]** **did NOT walk in the ways**
of **his father**

2 For **behold** he **[Noah]** **did NOT keep** the **commandments**

of **[the Lord] God**
but he **[Noah]** **did** walk after **the desires** of his **own heart** 01

And he **[Noah]** had MANY wives bb
and [he **Noah** had MANY] concubines

And he **[Noah]** **did** cause **his** people to **commit sin**
And he **[Noah]** **did** cause **his** people to **do that which was abominable**
in the sight of **[the Lord] [God]**

Yea **and** they **[his people]** **did** commit **whoredoms**
and [they **his** people **did** commit] **ALL manner of wickedness**

3 **And** he **[Noah]** laid a **tax** of one fifth part of ALL they possessed cc

a fifth part of their **gold** dd
and [a fifth part] of their **silver** 02
and [a fifth part] of their **ziff**
and [a fifth part] of their **copper**
and [a fifth part] of their **brass**
and [a fifth part of] their **iron**

[Par. aa – Like beginnings “he Noah]

[Heb. 01 – Plurals “desires”]

[Par. bb – Many “and”s]

[Par. cc – Distribution]

[Par. dd – Circular repetition “a fifth part of”]

[Heb. 02 – Repetition of a possessive “their”]

[Mosiah 11]

and a fifth part of their fatlings
and also a fifth part of their grain

4 And ALL this did ee
he [Noah] take to support him self
and his wives
and his concubines
and also his Priests
and their wives
and their concubines

[And thus] he [Noah] had changed the affairs of the kingdom

5 For he [Noah] put down ALL the Priests
that had been consecrated by his father
and [he Noah] consecrated new ones
in their stead [place]

such
as were lifted up in the pride of their hearts

6 Yea
and thus they were supported
in their laziness
and in their idolatry
and in their whoredoms
by the taxes
which king Noah had put
upon his people

Thus _____ did the people labor exceedingly
to support _____ iniquity

7 Yea
and [thus] they _____ [his people]
also became idolatrous

[Note: Although king Noah was *wicked*, I will refer to him as *Noah*, or *king Noah* in order to emphasize his descendency from Zeniff yet also emphasize his *wicked actions*.]

[Par. ee – Distribution]

because they were **deceived** by the **vain**
and **flattering words**
of the king
and [of the] priests

For they [the king
and the priests
did **speak** **flattering things**
unto them [**his** people]

The Power of Worldly Riches Corrupts King Noah

8 **And** **it came to pass**

that king Noah built MANY elegant
and spacious buildings

and he [Noah] ornamented **them** _____ with fine work
of wood
and of ALL manner
of precious things
of gold
and of silver
and of iron
and of brass
and of ziff
and of copper

ff
03

[Note* The listed order of these enumerated items is different than in verse 3.]

9 **And** he [Noah] also built him a spacious palace
and a throne in the midst thereof
ALL of which was of fine wood
and [ALL of which] was ornamented
with gold
and [with] silver
and with precious things

[Note: The fact that no items are listed after “precious things” is perhaps an example of “omission.”]

[Par. ff – Enumeration]

[Heb. 03 – Repeated prepositions]

[Mosiah 11]

10 And he [Noah] also caused that his workmen should work ALL manner of fine work within the walls of the temple of fine wood and of copper and of brass 04

11 And the seats [in the midst thereof] which were set apart for the high priests which were above ALL the other seats 05

he [Noah] did ornament _____ with pure gold [false symbolism]

and he [Noah] caused a breastwork to be built before them

that they might rest their bodies [the name "Noah" means "rest"]

and [that they might rest] their arms upon

while they should speak lying and vain words to his people

~~~ Noah Builds Two? Towers to Overlook Shemlon & Shilom

12 And it came to pass

that he [Noah] built a tower near the temple  
yea a very high tower [false purposes ?]

^even/ever so high [^P, 1830 / 1837]

that he [Noah] could stand upon the top thereof  
and overlook the land of Shilom

and also [overlook] the land of Shemlon  
which was possessed  
by the Lamanites

and he [Noah] could even look over ALL the land round about

[Heb. 04 – Verb and noun with the same root “work”]

[Heb. 05 – Use of the words “above ALL” in comparison]

13 And **it came to pass**

that he [Noah] caused MANY buildings to be built  
*in the land Shilom*

and[that] he [Noah] caused a GREAT tower to be built  
*on the hill north*  
*of the land Shilom*

which [hill] had been a **resort** [see Note\*] {AL}

for the children of **Nephi**

at the time they [the children of **Nephi**] *fled out*  
*of the land [of Nephi]*

[Note: In Omni 1:12-13 there is an account of the people of Nephi who did “flee out of the land of Nephi.”]

[Note: In Webster’s 1828 dictionary, one of the definitions for the word “resort” was an “assembly or meeting place.”]

**And thus** he [Noah] *did do* with the riches  
 which he [Noah] obtained by the **taxation** of his people

14 And **it came to pass**

that he [Noah] **placed** his heart  
 upon his riches

and he [Noah] **spent** his time in riotous living  
 with his wives  
 and [with] his concubines

and so did also  
 his **priests** **spend** their time [in riotous living]  
 with harlots

15 And **it came to pass**

that he [Noah] planted vineyards *round about* 06  
*in the land*

and he [Noah] built wine presses

and [he **Noah**] made wine **in abundance** 07

[Heb. 06 – Compound preposition “round about in”]

[Heb. 07 – Preposition + condition = adverb “abundantly”]

[Mosiah 11]

and **therefore**

he **[Noah]** became a **wine bibber** [a steady drinker] {AL}  
and also **his** people [became **wine bibbers**]

[Note: In essence, Noah perverts the symbol of Christ's covenant family and Christ's blood that was shed as part of His covenant with mankind. The symbolic wine becomes a force for bad rather than for good.]

### Noah's People Boast in Their Own Strength

16 And **it came to pass**

that **the Lamanites**  
**began to come in**  
**upon his** people  
upon small numbers  
[of **his** people]  
and **[the Lamanites**  
**began to slay them** in **their** fields  
and **[began to slay them]**  
**while** they were tending **their** flocks

08

[Note\* Despite his preparations, Noah's protection becomes weak and vulnerable.]

17 And king **Noah** \_\_\_\_\_ sent guards **round about**  
**the land**  
to keep them **[the Lamanites]** off

but he **[Noah]** did NOT send a sufficient number  
[of guards]

And **the Lamanites** came upon **them**  
and **killed them**  
and drove MANY of **their** flocks  
**out of the land**

**[And thus]** **the Lamanites**  
**began to destroy them**  
and **[began]to exercise their hatred**  
upon **them**

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[Heb. 08 – Plurals “numbers”]

[Note: Once again, despite his best preparations, Noah's people begin to be destroyed.]

18 And **it came to pass**  
 that king **Noah** sent his armies against them [**the Lamanites**]  
 and they [**the Lamanites**] were driven **back**  
 > or they [**the people of Noah**] **drove** them [**the Lamanites**] \_\_\_\_\_ **back** gg  
 for a time

19 And **now** because of this GREAT victory  
 they [**the people of Noah**] were **lifted up** in **the pride of their hearts**  
 they [**the people of Noah**] **did boast** in **their own strength**  
**saying** that \_\_\_\_\_ **their fifty** could stand  
 against **thousands** of **the Lamanites** 09  
**And thus** they [**the people of Noah**] **did boast** [in **their own strength**]  
 and [they **the people of Noah**] **did delight** in \_\_\_\_\_ **blood** hh  
 and [they **the people of Noah**] **did delight** in] the shedding of the **blood**  
 of **their brethren**  
 and **this** because of the **wickedness**  
 of **their king**  
 and [of **their**] **priests**

*Abinadi Calls the People to Repentance  
 The Lord's Prophet Warns of Bondage and Affliction*

20 And **it came to pass**  
 that there was a man among **them**  
 whose name was **Abinadi**  
 And he [**Abinadi**] **went forth** among **them**  
 and [he **Abinadi**] **began to** **prophecy**  
**saying** [Quote from 1° source - Mos. 11:20-25]  
**Behold** **thus** **saith** **the Lord**  
 and **thus** hath **He** [**the Lord**] **commanded** **me** [**bookend**]  
**saying** [**Quotation**]

[Par. gg – Clarification]  
 [Heb. 09 – Exaggeration]

[Par. hh – Simple synonymous parallelism]

**Go forth**

[see Exodus 4:22; 8:1, 20; 9:5]

and **say** unto **this people**  
thus **saith** **the Lord**

ii  
PP

**Wo** be unto **this people**  
for **I [the Lord]** have seen **their abominations**  
and **their wickedness**  
and **their whoredoms**

and **EXCEPT** they [**this people**] **repent**  
**I [the Lord]** will visit **them**  
in **Mine anger**

21 **And** **EXCEPT** they [**this people**] **repent**  
and turn [ ] <sup>[P\*]</sup>  
<sup>^unto</sup> <sup>^Pc, 1830 /</sup>  
to **the Lord Their God** <sup>conj]</sup>

**behold** **I [the Lord]** will deliver **them**  
into **the hands of their enemies**  
**yea** and they [**this people**] shall be **brought into bondage**  
and they [**this people**] shall be **afflicted by the hand of their enemies**

22 **And** **it shall come to pass**  
that they [**this people**] shall know  
that **I [the Lord]** am **the Lord Their God** [see Exodus 3; 20:2]  
and [that **I the Lord**] am **a Jealous God** [see Exodus 20:5]  
**Visiting the Iniquities of My People**

23 **And** **it shall come to pass**  
that **EXCEPT** **this people** **repent**  
and turn unto **the Lord Their God**  
they [**this people**] shall be **brought into bondage**  
and **NONE** shall deliver **them** [see Mosiah 23:23; 24:1]  
**EXCEPT** it **BE** **the Lord**  
**the Almighty God**

[Par. ii – Circular repetition “this people”]

24 **Yea**  
 and **it shall come to pass**  
 that **when** they [**this people**] shall cry  
 unto **Me**  
**I [the Lord]** will be slow  
 to **hear their cries**

**yea** and **I [the Lord]** will **suffer them**  
 that they [**this people** shall] be **smitten**  
 by **their enemies**

25 **And EXCEPT** they [**this people**] **repent**  
 in sackcloth  
 and [in] ashes  
 and cry mightily  
 to **the Lord Their God**

**I [the Lord]** will NOT **hear their prayers**  
 NEITHER will **I [the Lord]** **deliver them**  
 out of **their afflictions**

and thus **saith the Lord**  
 and thus **hath He [the Lord] commanded me** [bookend] [see v. 20]

[Note: According to Donald W. Parry (2007:184), verses 20-25 can be arranged chiasmically. A simple outline of the elements in his *chiasmatic parallelism* is as follows:

|    |                                                  |
|----|--------------------------------------------------|
| 20 | [A] thus hath he commanded me                    |
|    | [B] thus saith the Lord                          |
|    | [C] I have seen their abominations               |
|    | [D] and except they repent                       |
| 21 | [E] into the hands of their enemies              |
| 22 | [F] they shall know that I am the Lord their God |
|    | [G] visiting the iniquities                      |
| 23 | [H] repent                                       |
|    | [H] turn unto the Lord                           |
|    | [G] brought into bondage                         |
|    | [F] none shall deliver them                      |
| 24 | [E] smitten by _____ their enemies               |
| 25 | [D] And except they repent                       |
|    | [C] I will not hear their prayers                |
|    | [B] thus saith the Lord                          |
|    | [A] thus hath he commanded me                    |

King Noah Seeks to Silence Abinadi

26 **Now** **it came to pass**

that **when** **Abinadi** had **spoken** these **words**  
unto **them**  
they [**this people**] **were** **wroth** with **him**  
**and** [they **this people**] **sought** to take away **his** life  
**but** **the Lord** **delivered** **him**  
out of **their** hands

jj

27 **Now**

**when** king **Noah** had heard of the **words**  
which **Abinadi** had **spoken** [spake - P] {AG}  
unto **the people**

he [**Noah**] was also **wroth** [with **him**]  
**and** he [**Noah**] **said**

[A] Who is **Abinadi** [see Exodus 5:2] kk

[B] **that** I [**Noah**] and **my people** should be **judged** of **him** ?

[A] **or** Who is **the Lord**

[B] **that** shall bring upon **my people** such GREAT **affliction** ?

28 I [**Noah**] command you  
to bring **Abinadi** hither  
**that** I [**Noah**] may \_\_\_\_\_ **slay** **him**

**for** he [**Abinadi**] has **said** these **things**  
**that** he [**Abinadi**]  
might stir up **my people** \_\_\_\_\_ to **anger** one with another  
**and** to **raise** contentions  
among **my people**

**therefore** I [**Noah**] will \_\_\_\_\_ **slay** **him**

[Par. jj – Like line endings]

[Par. kk – Simple alternating parallelism]

[Note: According to Donald W. Parry (2007:184), the last part of verse 28 can be called chiasmic parallelism. A simple outline of the elements is as follows:

28     [A] slay him  
           [B] my people  
               [C] to anger one with another  
               [C] to raise contentions  
           [B] my people  
        [A] slay him

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29     **Now**   the eyes of     the people were **blinded**

10

**therefore**

                  they [the people]     **hardened**   **their hearts**  
                                           against the words  
 of Abinadi

and           they [the people]     **sought** **from that time forward**  
                                           **to take** him

And   king Noah \_\_\_\_\_ **hardened**   **his heart**  
                                           against the word  
 of the Lord

and   he   [Noah]           did NOT   **repent** of **his evil doings**

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[Heb. 10 – Metaphor “eyes”]

[Note: According to Grant Hardy, the tale of Abinadi includes a number of parallels to the Exodus story, beginning with God’s command: “Go forth and say unto this people, **“Thus saith the Lord . . . “** Hardy notes that while this is a fairly common phrase in the Hebrew Bible, where it recurs more than fifty times, it is most memorable where it is used first, in the story of Moses’ confrontation with Pharaoh at Exodus 4:22, 8:1, 20, and 9:13 . . . **“hardened heart(s)** is a common formula in the Book of Mormon, but in the Hebrew Bible it is overwhelmingly associated with the confrontation between Moses and Pharaoh in Exodus (sixteen out of eighteen occurrences).”

Hardy states: “It appears that both Mormon and God want us to perceive Abinadi’s preaching not just as a doctrinal discourse, but as a reenactment of sacred drama—Abinadi is a new Moses, giving the law once again (as when he recites the Ten Commandments) and standing up to a recalcitrant faithless ruler. The verbal correspondences become . . . distinctive.” (*Understanding the Book of Mormon: A Reader’s Guide*, p. 157-159.)]

[*Mosiah 11*]

[*Note: According to Grant Hardy, shortly before his martyrdom, the prophet Abinadi prophesied to the Nephite colony established by Zeniff concerning things that would come about because of his death at their hands. There are at least seven instances where Abinadi's predictions later appear in Mormon's narrative:*

- 1 Mosiah 11:21 “except this people repent . . . they shall be brought into bondage”  
**Fulfillment:** Mosiah 19:13-15, 25-28
- 2 Mosiah 11:24-25 “when they shall cry unto me I will be slow to hear their cries”  
**Fulfillment:** Mosiah 21:15
- 3 Mosiah 12:2 “this generation, because of their iniquities . . . shall be smitten on the cheek; yea, and shall be driven by men, and shall be slain”  
**Fulfillment:** Mosiah 21:3, 8, 11, 12
- 4 Mosiah 12:3 “the life of King Noah shall be valued even as a garment in a hot furnace”  
(see also Mosiah 17:18)  
**Fulfillment:** Mosiah 19:20
- 5 Mosiah 12:5 “they shall have burdens lashed upon their back; and they shall be driven before like a dumb ass”  
**Fulfillment:** Mosiah 21:3-4
- 6 Mosiah 13:10 “what you do with me, after this, shall be as a type and a shadow of things which are to come”  
**Fulfillment:** Mosiah 19:20/ Alma 25:9-10
- 7 Mosiah 17:15, 18 “they seed shall cause that many shall suffer even the pains of death by fire . . . And in that day ye shall be hunted, and ye shall be taken by the hand of your enemies”  
**Fulfillment:** Alma 25:11-12

*Hardy notes that in the last three fulfillments of these predictions, Mormon includes a personal comment to make sure the reader does not miss the connection. (Grant Hardy, Understanding the Book of Mormon: A Reader's Guide, p. 112-113.)]*