

Chapter 21

{Original 1830 Chapter IX – continued}

Further Fulfillment of Abinadi's Prophecy

~~~ The People of Limhi Battle the Lamanites 3 Times for Freedom Without Success

1 And **it came to pass**

that [he] **Limhi**

and his people \_\_\_\_\_ returned to the city of **Nephi**  
and **began** to dwell in the land  
**again**  
in **peace**

2 And **it came to pass**

that after **MANY** days **the Lamanites**

**began** again

to be stirred up in **anger**  
against the **Nephites**

and they [**the Lamanites**]

**began** to come into the borders

of the land round about

3 **Now** \_\_\_\_\_ they [**the Lamanites**]

durst NOT slay **them**

[**the people** of **Limhi**]

because of \_\_\_\_\_ the **oath**

which their **king** had **made**

unto [king] **Limhi**

**but** they [**the Lamanites**]

would smite **them**

on **their** cheeks

**and** [would] exercise authority

over **them**

**and** [they **the Lamanites**]

**began** to put heavy burdens

upon **their** backs

[Mosiah 21]

as they and [began to] drive them  
 would a dumb ass 01  
 [Comment]  
 4 Yea ALL this was done  
 that the word of the Lord  
 might be fulfilled  
 \* \* \*

5 And now \_\_\_\_\_ the afflictions  
 of the Nephites were GREAT  
 and there was NO way  
 that they could deliver themselves out  
 of their hands  
 for the Lamanites  
 had surrounded them on EVERY side

6 And it came to pass aa bb  
 that [they] the people began to murmur with the king  
 because of \_\_\_\_\_ their afflictions  
 and they [the people] began to be \_\_\_\_\_ desirous  
 to go against them [the Lamanites] to battle  
 And they [the people] did afflict the king sorely\* {AL}  
 with their complaints

[Note\* This seems to be the same meaning as when the people “wearied” king Mosiah “with their teasings” that they might know “concerning the people that went up to dwell in the land of Lehi-Nephi.” (Mosiah 7:1)]

**therefore**

he [king Limhi] granted unto them  
 that they should do according to their desires 02  
 7 And they gathered themselves together again  
 and [they] put on \_\_\_\_\_ their armor  
 and [they] went forth  
 against the Lamanites  
 to drive them out of their land

[Heb. 01 – Simile “as”]

[Heb. 02 – Plurals]

[Par. aa – Like beginnings “they”]

[Par. bb – Upward gradation]

8 And **it came to pass** that **the Lamanites**  
**did** beat **them**  
 and **did** drive **them** back [P/P<sup>x</sup> – drove]  
 and **did** slay MANY [P/P<sup>x</sup> – slew]  
 of **them**

9 And **now** there was a GREAT **mourning**  
 and [a GREAT] **lamentation** among **the people** of **Limhi** cc  
 the widow **mourning** for her husband  
 the son  
 and the daughter **mourning** for their father  
 and the brothers [**mourning**] for their brethren

10 **Now** there were a GREAT MANY widows *in the land*  
 and they [the MANY widows]  
**did cry** mightily  
*from day to day*

for a GREAT fear  
 of **the Lamanites** had come  
 upon **them**

11 And **it came to pass** that **their** **continual** **cries**  
**did** stir up  
 the remainder of **the people** of **Limhi**  
 to anger  
 against **the Lamanites**

and [A] **they** **went** **again** to battle [the second time] dd  
 but [B] **they** were driven back **again**  
**suffering** MUCH loss

12 **Yea** [A] **they** **went** **again** [to battle]  
 even **the third** **time**  
 and [B] [**they**] **suffered** in the like manner

and those that were not slain *returned* **again** to *the city of Nephi*

[Par. cc – Working out]

[Par. dd – Alternating parallelism]

The Lord Who Is Slow to Punish May Also Be Slow to Forgive

13 And **they** **did** **humble** themselves **even** to the dust ee  
 subjecting themselves to the **yoke of bondage**  
 submitting themselves to be **smitten**  
**and** [submitting themselves] to be **driven** to and fro  
**and** [submitting themselves to be] **burdened**  
 according to the **desires**  
 of their **enemies**

14 And **they** **did** **humble** themselves **even** in the depths 03  
 of **humility**  
**and** **they** **did** **cry** mightily to **God**  
**yea** **even ALL the day long**  
**did**  
**they** **cry** unto **their God**  
 that **He** **[the Lord]** would **deliver** **them** ff  
 out of **their** **afflictions** 04

15 And **now** **[He]** **the Lord** was slow to **hear** **their cry**  
 because of **their** iniquities 05

nevertheless  
**[He]** **the Lord** **did** \_\_\_\_\_ **hear** **their cries** 06

**and** **[He]** **the Lord]** **began** **to soften** \_\_\_\_\_ the hearts 07  
 of **the Lamanites**  
**that** they **[the Lamanites]**  
**began** **to ease** \_\_\_\_\_ **their** **burdens** 08

**yet** **[He]** **the Lord** **did** NOT see fit  
 to **deliver** **them**  
 out of \_\_\_\_\_ **bondage**

[Par. ee – Working out]

[Heb. 05 – Plurals]

[Heb. 03 – Verb and noun with the same root]

[Heb. 06 – Plurals]

[Par. ff – Like beginnings “He the Lord”]

[Heb. 07 – Plurals]

[Heb. 04 – Plurals]

[Heb. 08 – Plurals]

16 And **it came to pass**

that **they** **began** to prosper by degrees *in the land*  
 and **[they]** **began** to raise grain MORE abundantly  
 and **[began** to raise] flocks [MORE abundantly]  
 and **[began** to raise] herds [MORE abundantly]

gg

that **they** **did** NOT suffer with **hunger**

17 **Now** there was a **GREAT** number of women  
 MORE  
 than there was [the **number**] of men

**therefore**

**king Limhi** **commanded**  
 that EVERY man  
 should **impart** to the support  
 of the widows  
**and** their children  
 that they might NOT **perish** with **hunger**

**and** this they **did**  
 because of the **GREATness**  
 of their **number** that had been **slain**

18 **Now** **the people of Limhi** **kept together** in a body  
 as MUCH as it was possible

**and** **secure / secured** **their** grain *[changed in 1849]*  
 and **their** flocks  
**[and** **their** herds] *[omission?]*

19 **And** the **king**  
**himself** **did** NOT trust **his** person

09

*without the walls  
 of the city*

unless **he** [the **king**] took **his** guards  
 with **him**

that **he** [the **king**] fearing  
 might by some means  
 fall into the **hands**  
 of **the Lamanites**

[Par. gg – Like beginnings]

[Heb. 09 – Duplication]

[Mosiah 21]

20   **And**   he [the **king**]   **caused**   10  
      **that**   **his people**   should    watch                    *the land round about*   11

**that**   by    some means  
      they might take those priests  
      ~~that~~ [who had]   **fled**   *into the wilderness*

      [those priests]  
      who had stolen  
      the daughters  
      of   **the Lamanites**

**and**   [those priests]  
~~that~~ [who] had caused  
such a GREAT **destruction** to come  
                                          upon **them**

21   **For**   they were desirous  
                  to take them  
      **that**   they might punish them

**for**   they had    **come into** *the land of Nephi by night*  
                  **and** [had] carried off [MUCH]                    hh  
                                  of   **their** grain                    [deleted in 1837]

**and** [had carried off] MANY  
                                  of   **their** precious things

**therefore**   they   laid wait for   them

22 **And** **it came to pass**  
      **that**   there was NO more   disturbance  
                  between   **the Lamanites** and **the people of Limhi**  
  
                                  **even**   **until the time**  
      **that**   **Ammon** and **his brethren**  
                                  **came into** *the land*

[Heb. 10 – Use of “caused that”]

[Par. hh – Simple alternating]

[Heb. 11 – Compound preposition “round about”]

## ~~~ Ammon &amp; 15 Men Travel to Lehi-Nephi

[Note: This story of Ammon is also told starting in Mosiah 7:2.]

23 And [he] the king ii  
 having been without the gates of the city  
 with his guard  
 he discovered Ammon and his brethren [deleted in P]  
 and supposing them  
 to be priests of Noah

**therefore** he [the king] \_\_\_\_\_ caused  
 that they should be taken  
 and bound  
 and cast into prison

And had they been the priests of Noah  
 he [the king] would have caused  
 that they should be put to death

24 But when he [the king] found  
 that they were NOT [the priests of Noah]  
 but that they were his brethren  
 and [that they] had come  
 from the land of Zarahemla

he [the king] was filled with exceedingly GREAT joy [1981]

## ~~~ 43 Men Had Been Sent By Limhi to Find Zarahemla

[Note: This story is referred to in Mosiah 8:7.]

25 **Now** king Limhi had sent  
 previous to the coming  
 of Ammon  
 a small number of men to search  
 for the land of Zarahemla

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[Par. ii – Like beginnings]

[Mosiah 21]

but they could NOT find it *[the land of Zarahemla]* jj  
and they were lost in *the wilderness*

26 Nevertheless they did find *a land* which had been peopled  
yea *a land* which was covered with dry bones  
yea *a land* which had been peopled  
and which had been destroyed  
and they  
having supposed it to be *the land of Zarahemla*  
having arrived *returned to the land of Nephi*  
*in the borders*  
*of the land*  
NOT many days  
before *the coming*  
of Ammon

27 And they brought a record with them  
even a record of the people whose bones  
they had found  
and it was engraven on plates of ore

28 And now

[A] [he] Limhi was again filled with joy kk  
[C] [ ]  
[B] in learning  
from the mouth  
of Ammon  
that [C] king Benjamin / Mosiah had a gift from God [\*changed to "Mosiah" in 1837]  
[C] [a gift from God]  
whereby he [ ] could interpret such engravings  
[B] yea and Ammon  
[A] [like Limhi] also did rejoice

[Note\* This editing change has been considered to be the correction of a "mistake" by some. A similar statement (and "correction") occurs in Ether 4:1, so these changes deserve some comment here (although very brief).

[Par. jj – General irregular repetition "land"]

[Par. kk – Chiasitic parallelism]



The problem stems back to chapters 6 and 7 of Mosiah, where we find that:

- (1) after conferring the kingdom upon his son Mosiah, “king Benjamin lived three years and he died.” (Mosiah 6:4-5)
- (2) in Mosiah 7:1-3 we find that “king Mosiah had had continual peace for the space of three years” when he sent Ammon and his men to search for the people of Zeniff (Noah, Limhi).

A resolution to this problem can be found in the broad statement of “three years.” In other words, these chronological phrases are ambiguous enough to create overlap; enough so that Ammon and his men not only could have left the land of Zarahemla while Benjamin was still alive, but returned also. (Alma and his group spent a little over 21 days in travel, going from the borders of the local land of Nephi to the land of Zarahemla – Mosiah 18:4-5, 31-35; 23:3, 24:20, 24:25)

Although the 1837 editing change, while intentional, might have been made to avoid what seemed like a contradiction to the reader, the evidence supports the fact that either the name “Benjamin” or “Mosiah” could be seen as correct. There is no “mistake” here. Interestingly, the change from Benjamin to Mosiah in Ether 4:1 was not made until 1849, by Orson Pratt.]

### Obedience to Covenants Brings Freedom

- 29 **Yet** [A] [they] Ammon and his brethren were filled with sorrow  
[B] because so MANY of his their brethren had been slain [changed in 1837]  
30 and also [C] that king Noah and his priests  
[D] had caused the people to commit so MANY sins  
and iniquities  
against God  
and [A] they [Ammon and his brethren] also did mourn  
[B] for the death of Abinadi  
and also [C] for the departure of Alma and the people that went with him  
[D] who had formed a church of God  
through the strength  
and power of God  
and [through] faith  
on the words  
which [words] had been spoken by Abinadi  
31 **Yea** [A] they [Ammon and his brethren] did mourn  
[B] [C] for their departure  
for they [Ammon and his brethren] knew not *whither they had fled*

[Par. LL – Extended alternating contrasting parallelism]

[Mosiah 21]

**Now** **they** would have gladly joined with them [Alma’s group]  
**for** **they** themselves had entered into a covenant

mm

with **God**  
to serve **Him**  
and [to] keep **His** commandments

32 And **now** **since** \_\_\_\_\_ *the coming*  
of **Ammon**

**king Limhi** had also entered into a covenant

with **God**  
[to serve **Him**  
and to keep **His** commandments]

and also **MANY** of his people

[had entered into a covenant  
with **God**]

to serve **Him**  
and [to] keep **His** commandments

33 And **it came to pass**

**that** **king Limhi**

**and** **MANY** of his people

were desirous to be baptized

**but** **there was** NONE *in the land* {AG}  
that had **authority**  
from **God**

And **Ammon** declined doing this thing  
considering **himself** an unworthy servant

34 **Therefore** **they** **did** NOT **at** **that time**

nn

form themselves  
into a **church**  
**waiting** upon **the Spirit of the Lord** [duality]

**Now** **they** were desirous to become  
**even as Alma** and his **brethren**

who had *fled*  
*into the wilderness*

[Par. mm – Repeated extended alternating parallelism]

[Par. nn – Like beginnings “they”]

35 **They** were desirous to be **baptized**  
as a witness 12  
and [as] a testimony

that **they** were willing to serve **God**  
with ALL **their** hearts

nevertheless  
**they** **did** prolong **the time**  
[of **their** **baptism**]

[Mormon's editorial promise]  
and an account of **their** **baptism** [Editorial Promise] EP  
shall be **given** **hereafter** [4 chapters later in Mosiah 25:17, 18]  
\* \* \*

36 And **now**  
ALL the study of **Ammon** and **his** people  
and [ALL the study of] **king Limhi** and **his** people  
was to **deliver** **themselves** oo  
out of **the hands**  
of **the Lamanites**  
and [was to **deliver** **themselves**]  
from **bondage**

{Original 1830 Chapter Break—end of Chapter IX}

[Heb. 12 – Simile “as”]

[Par. oo – Simple alternating]

[Mosiah 21]

[Note: Wade Brown writes:

*Occasionally the Nephites or Lamanites discontinued an action and later returned to the same activity. In eleven separate sections Mormon described this recommencing of an activity. In all but one instance he used the word combination "began again to" (**Mosiah 21:2**; 26:37; 27:6; Alma 1:28; 11:46; 27:2; 55:28; 59:4; Helaman 8:10; 11:36; 3 Nephi 1:23; 6:4; 4 Nephi 1:42) The exception was when he described a certain mental instead of physical activity. . . . it was only his son and companion [Moroni] who used the phrase "began again to" (Ether 9:16, 26; 10:4) . . .*

*Here is a small but significant fact; other authors described the same renewal of action but reversed the word combination. For example, Nephi wrote "again began to" (1 Nephi 3:31). And Zeniff also wrote "again began to" (Mosiah 10:1, 21). Some other Nephite writers just said "again" to report the return to activity. (C. Wade Brown, The First Page of the Golden Plates, p. 28.)]*