

Chapter 24

{Original 1830 Chapter XI – continued}

Wicked Amulon Oppresses the Righteous People of Alma

1 And **it came to pass**

that [he] **Amulon** did gain favor in the eyes
of the **king** of **the Lamanites**
therefore the **king** of **the Lamanites** granted
unto **him**
and his brethren

that **they** should be appointed **teachers**
over **his** people
yea even over the people
who were in the land of Shemlon 01
and in the land of Shilom 02
and in the land of Amulon

2 **For** **the Lamanites** had taken possession of ALL these lands

Therefore the **king** of **the Lamanites**
had appointed **kings**
over ALL these lands

3 And **now** the name of the **king** of **the Lamanites** was **Laman** [he the **king**] being called after the name of **his** father

and **therefore**

he was _____ called
king Laman
And he was **king** over a **numerous** people

[Heb. 01 – Separated prepositions]

[Heb. 02 – Two nouns connected by “of”]

8 And **now it came to pass**

that [he] **Amulon** **began to** exercise authority ee
 over **Alma**
 and **his brethren**
 and [he] **Amulon** **began to** persecute **him**
 and [he] **Amulon** [**began to**] **cause** **that** his children
 should persecute **their** children

9 For [he] **Amulon** knew **Alma**
 that he [**Alma**] had been one of the king's priests
 and that it was
 he [**Alma**] that **believed** _____ the **words** of **Abinadi**
 and [that] he **Alma** was **driven out** before the king [**Noah**]

and **therefore**

he [**Amulon**] was wroth with **him**
 for[though] he [**Amulon**] was subject to king **Laman**
[who gave him NO power contrary to his will—see 3:39]
 yet he [**Amulon**] exercised authority
 over **them** ff
 and [he] **Amulon** put tasks upon **them**
 and [he] **Amulon** put task masters
 over **them**

10 And **it came to pass**

that so GREAT were **their** afflictions
 that they **began to** cry mightily to **God**

11 And **it came to pass**

[deleted in 1837]

that [he] **Amulon** commanded **them**
 that they should stop **their cries**
 and he [**Amulon**] put guards over **them**
 to watch **them**
 that **whosoever** should be found calling upon **God**
 should be
put _____ to **death** * *[*see note]*

 [Par. ee – Like beginnings “he Amulon”]

[Par. ff – Like endings “them”]

The Lord Will Deliver His Covenant People
He Strengthens Them That Their Burdens Are Made Light

12 And **it came to pass** [deleted in 1837]
 that [he] Alma
 and his people did NOT raise their voices
 to **the Lord Their God**
 but [they] did pour out their hearts 04
 to **Him**
 and He [the Lord] did know the thoughts
 of their hearts

13 And **it came to pass**
 that the _____ voice
 of **the Lord** came to **them**
 in their afflictions
 saying
 and **Lift up your heads** 05
 and **be** of good comfort* [**see note*]

for I [the Lord] know 88
 of the **covenant**
 which ye have made unto **Me*** [**see note*]

and I [the Lord] will **covenant**
 with ~~this~~ **My people*** [*“this” on P, but deleted in 1830 edition*]
 and [I the Lord will] **deliver them**
 out of **bondage**

14 And I [the Lord] will also ease the **burdens*** [**see note*]
 which are put upon **your** shoulders
 that even you can NOT feel **them**
 upon **your** backs
 even while you are in **bondage**

[Heb. 04 – Metaphor “hearts”]
 [Heb. 05 – Idiom]
 [Par. gg – Like line beginnings “I the Lord”]

And this will
 I [the Lord] do
 that ye may stand as witnesses* [see note on following page]
 for Me hereafter

and that ye may know of a surety
 that I the Lord God
 do visit My people
 in their afflictions

15 And now it came to pass

that the burdens which were laid upon Alma
 and his brethren
 were made light

yea [He] the Lord did strengthen them
 that they could bear up their burdens
 with ease

and they did submit cheerfully
 and with patience

to ALL the will of the Lord

06

[Note: According to Greg Wright (1976:37) and Donald W. Parry (1992:183), the contents of verses 14 -15 can be viewed as an example of *chiastic parallelism*:

- 14 [A] And I will also ease the burdens
 [B] which are put upon your shoulders,
 [C] that even you cannot feel them upon your backs,
 [D] even while you are in bondage
 [E] and this will I do
 [F] that ye may stand as witnesses for me hereafter,
 [F] and that ye may know of a surety
 [E] that I, the Lord God, do visit
 [D] my people in their afflictions
- 15 [C] And now it came to pass that the burdens which were laid upon Alma and his brethren were made light;
 [B] yea, the Lord did strengthen them that they could bear up
 [A] their burdens with ease,
 and they did submit cheerfully and with patience to all the will of the Lord.

[Heb. 06 – Preposition + condition = adverb “patiently”]

[Question: Why do we read “cheerfully” and not “with cheer”?]

[Mosiah 24]

[Note* Intriguingly, the **six phrases that are marked with an asterisk*** in verses 11, 13, and 14 correlate with the six promises made by Alma's people when they entered the waters of Mormon to be baptized (see Mosiah 18:8-9). According to Grant Hardy (*Understanding the Book of Mormon*, p. 109) the phrase "strand as witnesses" ONLY appears in these two locations and nowhere else.] [See also the chiasmic structure at the end of this chapter.]

16 And **it came to pass**

that so GREAT was **their faith**
and [so GREAT was] **their patience**
that the **voice**
of **the Lord** *came* unto **them again**
saying
Be of **good comfort**
for **on the morrow**
I **the Lord** **will** **deliver** **you**
out of **bondage**

17 And **He the Lord** **said** unto **Alma**

Thou Alma shalt *go* before **this people**
and I **the Lord** **will** *go* with **thee**
and [I **the Lord** **will**] **deliver** **this people**
out of **bondage**

~~~ *The People of Alma Escape to Zarahemla*

18 **Now it came to pass**

that [he] **Alma**  
and **his people**  
**in the night time** gathered **their flocks together**  
and also [gathered] of **their grain**

**yea** even **ALL the night time** were  
**they** gathering the **flocks together**

19 And **in the morning**  
**He the Lord** caused a **deep sleep**

to come upon **the Lamanites**  
**yea** and ALL their task masters were in a **profound sleep**

20 And **it came to pass** [deleted in 1837]  
 that [he] **Alma**  
 and **his people** *departed* *into the wilderness*  
 and **when they** had *traveled* **ALL day**  
**they** pitched **their** tents *in a valley*  
 and **they** called ~~the name of~~ *the valley* **Alma**  
[P/ deleted in 1830]  
 because **he** [Alma] led **their way** *[duality – way]*  
*in the wilderness*

21 **Yea** and *in the valley of Alma*  
**they** poured out **their thanks**  
 to **God**  
 because **He** [the Lord] had *been merciful*  
 unto **them**  
 and [He the Lord] had *eased* **their** burdens  
 and [He the Lord] had **delivered** **them**  
 out of **bondage**  
 for **they** were in **bondage**  
 and NONE could **deliver** **them**  
 [out of **bondage**]  
 EXCEPT it were **the Lord** **Their God**

22 **And they** gave **thanks** to **God** hh  
**Yea** ALL **their** men  
**and** ALL **their** women  
**and** ALL **their** children  
**that** could **speak**  
**lifted** [up] **their** voices  
 in the **praises** of **Their God**

[Par. hh – Distribution]

[Mosiah 24]

23 And **now** [He] the Lord said unto Alma

Haste thee  
and get thou  
and this people out of this land

for the Lamanites have awakened [have awoke – P] {AG}  
and [the Lamanites] do pursue thee

**therefore** get thee out of this land

and I [the Lord] will stop the Lamanites in this valley  
that they [the Lamanites] come NO further  
in pursuit of this people

24 And **it came to pass**

that they departed out of the valley  
and [they] took their journey  
into the wilderness

25 And **it came to pass**

that **after** they had been in the wilderness twelve days [deleted in 1837]  
they arrived to/in the land of Zarahemla [P/ 1920]  
[“arrived to” = {AG}]

and **king Mosiah** did also receive them  
with joy

---

[Note: According to Grant Hardy, in Mosiah 24:23 God tells Alma to flee because their enemies are approaching: “Haste thee and get thou and this people out of this land . . . get thee out of this land.” Later on in the text, when the converted Lamanites known as the Anti-Nephi-Lehies are unsure of what to do in a similar situation, the Lord uses very similar language and matching parallels: “Get this people out of this land, that they perish not . . . get thee out of this land” (Alma 27:12). These are the only verses in the Book of Mormon that use such language. (Grant Hardy, *Understanding the Book of Mormon: A Reader’s Guide*, p.109.)]



[Note: According to H. Clay Gorton, **Mosiah 24:13-16** can be viewed as a conceptual **chiastic parallelism**. A brief outline of the pertinent elements is as follows:

- 13 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came to them in their afflictions, saying: Lift up your heads and be of good comfort, **for I know of the covenant which ye have made unto me.**
- A and **I will covenant with my people** and **deliver them out of bondage.**
- 14 B And **I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders, that even you cannot feel them upon your backs,** even while you are in bondage;
- C and **this will I do that ye may stand as witnesses for me hereafter, and that ye may know of a surety that I, the Lord God, do visit my people in their afflictions**
- 15 B And now it came to pass that **the burdens which were laid upon Alma and his brethren were made light;** yea, the Lord did strengthen them that they could bear up their burdens with ease, and they did submit cheerfully and with patience to all the will of the Lord.
- 16 A And it came to pass that so great was their faith and their patience that the voice of the Lord came unto them again, saying: Be of good comfort, for on the morrow **I will deliver you out of bondage.**

(H. Clay Gorton, *A New Witness for Christ: Chiastic Structures in the Book of Mormon*, 1997, p. 347.)]

[Mosiah 24]

[Note: According to Greg Wright (1976:38), **Mosiah 24:20-24** is a **chiastic parallelism**. Intriguingly, Mormon is abridging the first part of this chiasm, but the second part is attributed as coming from the Lord to Alma. The following is a basic outline of the parallelism:

20. **A** And **Alma and his people departed into the wilderness;**
- B** and when they had traveled all day **they pitched their tents in a valley,** and they called the valley Alma, because he led their way in the wilderness
21. **C** Yea, \_\_\_\_\_ and **in the valley of Alma**
- D** **they poured out their thanks to God**
- E** because he [**the Lord their God**] had been merciful unto them, and eased their burdens
- F** and **had delivered them**
- G** out \_\_\_\_\_ of **bondage**
- G** for they were in **bondage**
- F** and none **could deliver them**
- E** except **the Lord their God**
22. **D** And **they gave \_\_\_\_\_ thanks to God, . . .**
- 23 And now the Lord said unto Alma:
- 1** Haste thee and **get thou and this people out of this land**
- 2** for **the Lamanites have awakened**
- 2** and [**the Lamanites**] **do pursue thee**
- 1** therefore **get thee \_\_\_\_\_ out of this land**
- C** and I will stop the Lamanites **in this valley [of Alma]** that they come no further in pursuit of this people.
24. **B** And it came to pass that \_\_\_\_\_ **they departed out of the valley**
- A** and [**they**] **took their journey into the wilderness.**