

5/16/20

Mosiah 18-24

GT

We Have Entered Into a Covenant with Him

3 peoples:

Limhi, Alma & Benjamin/Mosiah

- They all are making the same covenant in different ways

Mormon is putting them side by side so we can profit by the comparison

Alma: repents because of the word alone
v. 4 Mormon = wild beasts? wilderness?

Their desires: (v. 8-10)

- come into the fold of God
- be called his people
- bear one another's burdens
- mourn with those that mourn
- comfort those that stand in need of comfort
- ★ stand as witnesses of God - all things, all times, all places
- redeemed of God
- first resurrection
- have spirit poured out more abundantly upon them

three teachings about baptism here:

- 1) it is by immersion
- 2) it is associated with membership and participation in Christ's church
- 3) it is accompanied by the Spirit

- this is the first indication of a church in the Book of Mormon

v. 30 "Mormon" x 6 - triple parallel, doubled again - testifying of the truth, then committing it to memory

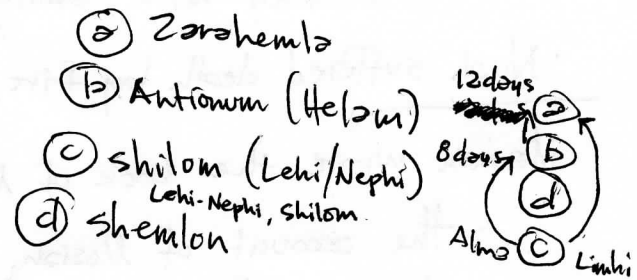
Alma's numbers had more than doubled.

Gideon - named after one of the judges of Israel/victory against great odds

- man of action
- ~~his~~ forms plan to kill Nah
- forms plan to get the Lamanites drunk

Nah flees and commands everyone else to flee - leave your families

- in exchange for the taxes they spent on him, this is what they get in return. He doesn't even stand by his own wives & concubines
Contrast with the behavior of his son Limhi from Mosiah 10 - women & children hidden



Where has baptism been, and where did it come from now?
 idea 1: There had been an apostasy since the time of Nephi, who taught baptism (2 Ne. 31, among other places)
 → coincidence that it was restored sometime
 idea 2: They were practicing it all along, but the record is incomplete.

it seems likely that Benjamin taught baptism, since Ammon seems to know about it (Mos. 21: 33) in Mos. 25, Limhi's people seem like the only ones not baptized

"Strength of the Lord" vs. "Weakness of the devil"

- Noah and the cowardly men who follow him are separated from the others — Noah commands them not to return. Why?
 - Authority in ~~the~~ loneliness is more important to him than suffering with family/friends
- Noah suffered death by fire, as foretold by Abinadi:

Mormon wrote the book of Mosiah to include:

- the account of Mosiah₁, who led his people out of the land of Nephi because, ~~the~~ presumably, their king was wicked. This account almost certainly contained ~~an~~ ~~a~~ recounting of that wickedness.
- they traveled through the wilderness, met up with another group, a group who had undergone a journey from the ~~the~~ same origin as their people (Jerusalem), but who had suffered a lot more along the way, and arrived without their relationship to God intact. They had left unwillingly and in a circumstance of conquering and exile.
- the story of Zeniff and Alma. Understand that ~~the~~ ~~the~~ everything I just said above about Mosiah, can be said about Alma. Mosiah led his people out of the land of Nephi ~~the~~ to have the freedom of their beliefs; Alma did the exact same thing. They met up with a group that ~~the~~ had stayed behind when they left, Alma did the exact same thing. They brought that group the knowledge they'd lost, and Alma did the exact same thing.

The "point" of the book of Mosiah is to highlight the difference between the two ways God's people have dealt with apostasy — exodus or exile.

Noah's people weren't attacked 3 times — they were attacked 5 times. 3 times Limhi's in Mosiah 21, but they had been 2x before, once when they were first conquered, and again when the Lamanites thought they were kidnapers.

The people of Alma → they stopped on their road. Did they intend to reach Zarahemla? Apparently not. They built buildings and planted crops. They apparently lived years in peace, because they were brought into bondage by Noah's priests, who didn't gain influence right away among the Lamanites.

Bof M #19 cont'

Alma's people were enslaved and oppressed, yes, but their misery was of much shorter duration, their oppressors were of a different quality* and their suffering had a meaning. As burdens are placed upon them, God tells them, you're going through this so you can be witnesses unto me hereafter.

They also have 2 miracles. ① they can bear burdens with ease. They didn't even notice the added weight. ② When it comes time to escape, they don't need a Gideon to get the Lamanites drunk. They can just walk away.

~~Amulon~~ * ~~Amulon~~ ^{Amulon} was different than King Laman, in that he specifically hated Alma for believing in God. Laman wanted dominion, sure, but only ~~Amulon~~ ^{Amulon} was truly evil.

Any pattern that shows itself among the people of God in the scriptures has its personal application ~~in~~ in your own spiritual journey, both in an eternal sense, and in a day-to-day sense. This is the point of scripture; it's what separates scripture from the other things you might read. So the message here appears to be:

There are two ways you can walk through the oppressions of life.

① exile: you don't allow the word to humble you. You are then left at the mercy of your troubles, to repeated destruction, and you will be forced to humble yourself, even to the dust. Rescue, when it does come, will involve a painful loss and will possibly depend on the spiritual guidance of someone who remained faithful.

② exodus: you humble yourself because of the word alone. God walks with you through trials, and miracles attend you. Your loss (symbolized by the necessity to leave Egypt/Helm/Narvoo, etc.) is borne willingly, and at the beginning. You are then a witness for God thereafter.

Either way, you will meet with oppression. Indeed, as Alma discovered, the oppression can be worse for the faithful.

The recommendation of God for how to follow the path of exodus rather than exile can be summed up in the words of Alma:

"Stand fast in that freedom wherewith ye have been made free."

Christ is the source of humankind's freedom. The very plan of God is freedom. You fought a battle in your pre-mortal existence for your freedom.

So you now (and every day) have a choice: ~~stand fast in your freedom, or~~

- slowly abandon your freedom, relying on others to witness to you, waiting for circumstance to force you into humility, which is the path of exile, or
- stand fast in your freedom, choose humility before it is forced on you, receive the guidance and miracles of God, and prepare yourself to be a witness of God hereafter, which is the path of exodus.

in either case, troubles will find us, and in either case, God is constantly watching out for us, bringing us those experiences we need, to turn us to Him. In fact, most of us will switch back and forth between exodus and exile several times in our lives, but the nature of mortality, and the lateness of the hour in which we find ourselves in the timeline of God's vineyard, makes it harder and harder to go back and forth, and more and more important to be where he has asked us to be.

God is right now, acting in your life to make you a witness hereafter of his miracles and of his rescue. Believe in Christ, humble yourself because of the word, and ~~be~~ prepare yourself for the day when someone will need to rely on your strength.