

ENOS, A MAN OF MIGHTY PRAYERS

(Enos 1:1-46)

V1-16

Enos introduces himself as being the son of Jacob, who brought him up right (v.1-2). Enos recounts the experience he had with the Lord, which subsequently defined the rest of his life (v.3). After his father's death (v.1), Enos went out into the forest and thought a great deal about the things his father had taught him (v.4). This caused him to humble himself before the Lord all day and into the night (v.5-6). The voice of the Lord came to him telling him he was forgiven (v.7). Enos's guilt is swept away (v.8), and he asks the Lord how it is accomplished (v.9). The Lord informs him it is because his faith in Christ, and tells him to "go to" (v.10-11).

Instead of being worried only about himself, he disregards the Lord's suggestion to "go to" and turns his attention to the Nephites as well (v.12). During his prayers in their behalf, the voice of the Lord comes to him and explains the only thing that will bring about their demise is their own iniquity (v.13-15). After this, Enos does "go to".

V17-29

When writing the record, Enos turns his attention towards the Lamanites. In a fashion similar to that of v.12-16, Enos prayed many times for the Lamanites as well (v.17). After many prayers and great diligence, which diligence is discussed in v.21-26, the Lord makes promises to him concerning the Lamanites (v.18). The promise made is that if the Nephites are annihilated, then the records they have written will go to the Lamanites as a means of their salvation (v.19-20, 23-26). This is because at the present time their efforts to teach the Lamanites are futile and all the Lamanites want to destroy the Nephites and their records (v.21-22). This promise is the same one all of his fathers, presumably Lehi, Nephi, and Jacob have prayed for as well (v.28). Jacob teaches the Nephites concerning the covenants the Lord has made, and testifies of the things he has learned firsthand (v.29).

V30-41

Enos changes the subject to cover some of the history of the Nephites. The Nephites attempt to teach religion to the Lamanites, but they are a wild and ferocious bunch of hunter-gatherers (v.30-33). In contrast to this is the Nephite society centered on agriculture and domesticated livestock (v.34). There were many prophets among the Nephites, because the people were hard-headed (v.35-36) and a great deal of preaching and warning in very plain terms was necessary to keep them from self-destruction (v.37-40). There were also battles between the Nephites and the Lamanites (v.41).

V42-46

Enos is approaching the end of his natural lifetime (v.42). But, he has lived a life of preaching the gospel and has chosen that over worldliness (v.43-44), so he is confident he will be redeemed by the Lord (v.45-46).

1. **How do Enos's words about the teachings of his father temper Jacob's summary of his own life in Jacob 5:42-44?**
2. **What specific teachings inspired Enos to kneel and pray?**
3. **What did Enos pray for first? As his faith grew, what else did he pray for?**
4. **What promises did Enos receive regarding the Nephites and the Lamanites? Which of these promises had also been given to his fathers?**
5. **What did Enos identify as the main sins of (a) the Lamanites and (b) the Nephites?**
6. **How did Enos feel about his standing before God? How did he obtain this hope?**