

RECORDS GO FROM FATHER TO SON

(Omni 1:1-54)

V1-17

These verses document a general Nephite slide into apostasy attending by a fairly persistent state of conflict with the Lamanites as earlier predicted (1 Nephi 1:58, 2 Nephi 4:40-41). Four different authors say little more than their names and things are not going well as all (v.1-17).

Contrast the contents and quality of verses 1-17 with the preceding books of Jacob, Enos, and Jarom. The preceding books are composed of eloquent speeches, have highly structured rhetorical style, and very spiritual content. The present verses have none of that. Also in the preceding books all of the authors state the Nephites are hardheaded and stiff-necked, but the constant preaching keeps the wickedness in check. These verses suggest prophets are not preaching anymore and the people who are supposed to keep the spiritual record are not spiritual. Thus, this small record reflects the spirituality of the Nephite society and becomes an example of “by their fruits ye shall know them.”

V18-34

Amaleki obtains possession of the small plates and he recounts a shift in the fortunes of the Nephites under the hands of King Mosiah and Benjamin. A righteous prophet-king by the name of Mosiah sits on the Nephite throne, and is warned by the Lord to flee their lands. The Nephite faithful who believe in prophecy follow him (v. 18-20). Those who leave are led by preaching and prophesying until they are ultimately led to meet another group of people (v.21-23).

These new people rejoice when they find out the Nephites have the Law of Moses (v.24-25), and Mosiah discovers the people were in fact led out of Jerusalem to the promised land when Babylon fell (v.26-27). When Mosiah discovers them they were a numerous people, but had gone through wars and slid into secularism (v.28-31). Their spoken language had also corrupted, such that initially they cannot communicate, and the leader gives Mosiah a history of his people (v.32-33). These people of Zarahemla and the Nephite remnant join together with Mosiah as king (v.34).

V35-39

Some time later, a stone bearing foreign inscriptions is brought to Mosiah and he interprets the writing on it (v.35). It contains a brief synopsis of the history of the Jaredites including mention of their fathers who left the tower of Babel and the final Jaredite who ended up living with the people at Zarahemla for some time (v.35-39).

V40-54

Amaleki briefly recounts some historical detail. King Mosiah's son, Benjamin, takes over as ruler of the people (v.40). The Nephites and Mulekites repel an attack by the Lamanites (v.41-42). Amaleki is getting old, and having no children he hands off the plates to King Benjamin, as he knows he is a God fearing man (v.43-45). Amaleki then testifies concerning the Christ and exhorts the reader to draw near to the Lord (v.46-47). Amaleki then closes his portion of the record (v.48-54).

- 1. How did Omni describe himself?**
- 2. What explanation did Amaron give for the destruction of some Nephites?**
- 3. Compare and contrast Amaleki to the other record-keepers in the book of Omni.**
- 4. Where did Mosiah's group go, and where did the people they met come from?**
- 5. What problems resulted from the lack of a written record among the people of Zarahemla?**
- 6. What contacts had there been between the Jaredites and the people of Zarahemla?**
- 7. What did Amaleki invite the reader to offer to God? How is this done?**