

THE RECORDS WILL BE PRESERVED

(Words of Mormon 1:1-27)

V1-3

Mormon informs the reader of the context and chronology of the present writing. As he is inserting something into the text that chronologically out of step, explanation is necessary. He laments the destruction of the Nephites, and hopes his son, Moroni, whom he is turning his abridgment over to, survives the annihilation of the Nephites.

V4-12

Mormon explains that some years earlier after abridging the large plates of Nephi from Lehi to Benjamin, he came upon the small plates as well (v.4-5). Now, many years after the fact, he decides to end his tenure as keeper of the plates (v.8-9) by inserting the small plates of Nephi into his records because they please him (v.6-7). He also feels the promptings of the Spirit in doing so, but is uncertain why (v.10-11). He then closes his explanation expressing his hope the record will go to future generations who will accept it (v.12), just as all of his righteous predecessors did (Enos 1:19-20,28).

V13-27

Mormon closes the insertion with explanatory historical material providing a segue between the record of the small plates of Nephi and his own abridgement of the large plates (v.13-27). Verse 14 picks up the historical record ending at Omni 1:54. Verses 15-17 is a parenthesis on the transmission of the Nephite record on plates.

Mormon then informs us concerning the early activities of Benjamin (v.18-27). Initially, his reign was one filled with contention from both warring Lamanites without (v.19-22) and apostate self-promoting religionist Nephite within (v.23-27). But, Benjamin was a righteous man who was supported by many prophets among the Nephites, and by dealing with these contentions they established peace among the Nephites (v.25-27).

- 1. When and how did Mormon find the small plates of Nephi?**
- 2. Why was Mormon pleased with the contents of the small plates?**
- 3. Besides affecting Mormon's abridgement (1:9), what other "wise purpose" did the small plates serve (see D&C 10)?**
- 4. According to Mormon, how did Benjamin overcome the (a) external and (b) internal threats to his kingdom?**