

KING BENJAMIN

(Mosiah 1:1-27)

Mormon had abridged the Nephite history from Lehi through King Mosiah, but that record is presently unavailable to us. Thus, with the Book of Mosiah we start that portion of the Nephite history abridged by Mormon.

V1

This verse closes Mormon's historical segue from the end of The Words of Mormon. The contention among the Nephites ends, resulting in peace among them through the rest of Benjamin's reign.

V2-13

Mormon now turns his attention to Benjamin's sons and their education. Here, we have the example of Benjamin teaching his three sons the language of the plates so they may study the Law and Prophets firsthand (v. 2-3). He points out to them that if it were not for the plates they would have been ignorant of the Lord's Word (v. 4) because it would have been impossible for Lehi to remember it all to teach and hand down (v. 5-6). Thus they would not have had access to the Lord's teachings, and they would have ended up like the Lamanites (v. 7-8). He tells his sons the records are true, and they can know for themselves they are because they can study them firsthand (v. 9-10). He then exhorts them to search the plates diligently so they keep the commandments and therefore, prosper in the land according to the Lord's covenants (v. 11-12). Benjamin also taught them a great deal more; it's just not documented here (v. 13).

V14-26

Benjamin is approaching the end of his mortal life, so he wants an orderly transfer of the kingship. He decides to pick one of his sons (V. 14). He tells Mosiah to have everyone gather in the next day so he will announce to them who their new king is (v.15-16) as well as give them a new name, which we later find out is the name of their spiritual leader (see Mosiah 3:10-11), because of their righteousness (v. 17).

This new name will not be blotted out from them unless they turn wicked (v.18). For if they turn wicked, then the Lord will abandon them and no longer preserve them (v.19-20).

Benjamin charges his son concerning how the kingdom ought to be administered (v.22). He turns over the plates, the sword of Laban, and the Liahona to Mosiah (v. 23-24), and Mormon editorializes on what the Liahona means spiritually (v. 25-26).

V27

After Benjamin's commands to his son Mosiah, Mosiah goes out and tells the people to gather up to the Temple to hear what the king has to say. As the gathering likely coincided with one of the three Biblically instituted gathering feasts, Mosiah's task was likely one of reinforcement of the necessity of participating something already known about.

- 1. Why did Benjamin teach his sons their fathers' language?**
- 2. According to Benjamin, how had the brass plates helped Lehi and the Nephites?**