

BENJAMIN WANTS AGAINST TRANSGRESSIONS

(Mosiah 1:64-91)

V64-69

After discussing his spiritual views on humility before God and the role of service (v.48-63), Benjamin returns again to the reason he summoned his people. He reiterates that he has a clear conscience before, and will not have their sins upon them (v.64). He is relieved about this because he knows it will enable him to go to heaven and enjoy God's presence (v.65). But he has summoned them up to tell them he can no longer be their teacher and king (v.67). He is too weak to perform the required duties anymore, and if it weren't for the Lord supporting him he couldn't even stand before them as he is now and tell them he has told him to announce Mosiah is the new king (v.68-69).

V70-91

With this change in rulership, Benjamin warns the people not to start slacking off in his absence. He admonishes them to keep the commandments of God which will come through Mosiah, just as they have kept the commandments of Benjamin and his father as well. If they do so they will prosper, otherwise they will fall into the hand of their enemies (v.70-72).

Benjamin reminds them of the words of his father which warned them against contention and being led into sin by the evil spirit (v.73). Those who fall into these things sin against the law of God and receive damnation for it (v.74-75).

He knows that all of the people present have been taught concerning the commandments of God from the records of their fathers (v.76-78). Thus, any among them who go against the commandments do so in rebellion, and force the Spirit to withdraw from them (v.79-82). And if the man who does this doesn't repent then he is damned (v.83-84), because God's mercy will not claim him (v.85).

Benjamin then closes off his main address with a rhetorical flourish of the agony of spiritual death (v.86-87) contrasted with the glory and happiness of the righteous (v.88-91). He encourages his listeners to ponder over this dichotomy.

In a society where wickedness is in the majority, this necessarily requires the righteous to be more flexible in order to be blessed. One cannot expect God to impinge on other's free agency in order to bless them, so one has to be willing to go where the Spirit tells them so they can be blessed according to their needs.

And, if a person spurns the Spirit, they end up wandering into trouble on their own because they have nothing outside themselves to guide them.