

## **REMISSION OF SINS BRINGS JOY**

(Mosiah 2:1-23)

This is king Benjamin's reply to the people's request in verses 2-3 that the Lord applies His atoning blood to them so they may have forgiveness of sins. His reply is in two parts with a conclusion. The first part presents the conditions of salvation, wherein they may obtain a remission of their sins (v.7-12). The second part tells them how they are to retain a remission of their sins, or in other words, how to maintain their forgiven condition (v. 13-50). This second part is divided into two major themes of what they need to do: love God (v.13-23), love their neighbors (v.24-47). Then, the conclusion tells them to keep on their guard against all sins (v.48-50).

### **V1-5**

The audience is overpowered by Benjamin's words; the fear of the Lord has come upon them (v. 1). They recognize their carnal condition, and cry out for mercy so the blood of Christ may atone for their sins (v. 2-4). The result is the Spirit of the Lord comes upon them (v. 5).

### **V6-23**

The people want to know what it takes to have their sins forgiven, so Benjamin tells them. And, he tells them how to maintain that forgiven state, namely having a godly walk. If one has a godly walk, then they will not commit sin. Here, king Benjamin tells the audience what the conditions of salvation are. The pathway he presents in v.12-17 is:

Humility -> Trust -> Obedience -> Salvation

Benjamin calls the people's attention (v. 7). He tells them that once they have recognized their fallen state (v.8) before God and see that He is longsuffering in dealing with man, then they will trust in the Lord, and be obedient to His commandments throughout their lives (v.9-10). Those who do this are the ones who receive salvation, which has been prepared for them since the foundation of the world (v.11). There are no other means of salvation (v.12). Note the pathway of salvation requires humility first.

Confess that God is more powerful and much wiser than yourself (v.13-15). Confess and abandon your sins and ask God to forgive you. And don't just talk about doing it, actually do it (v.16-17). Now, having done these things, you have obtained forgiveness for your sins, so don't forget what it is that got you that forgiveness in the first place. Maintain your humility, pray daily, and keep the faith (v.18-21) so you will always maintain that forgiven status. And in doing those things, you will also grow in your understanding of God and His ways (v.22-23).

- 1. What did Benjamin's people do to come "to a knowledge of the goodness of God"?**
- 2. Which "man . . . receiveth salvation"—what does he do?**
- 3. What should people remember if they want to be filled with joy and God's love?**