

## **TWENTY-FOUR GOLD PLATES**

(Mosiah 5:53-86)

### **V53-57**

After Limhi had spoken on the subject of verses 25-53 for some time, only a portion of which did Mormon include in this record, he goes on to tell the people concerning the Nephites in Zarahemla (v.53). He then has Ammon stand up and tell them what has happened there since the splinter group left (v.54). Ammon tells them about Benjamin's farewell speech and explains it to them as well (v.55). After this the people are dismissed (v.56-57).

One would presume Ammon gave a detailed account of Benjamin's farewell speech, which dealt a great deal with Messianic ideas, because of their apparent acceptance of the doctrine of a condescending Lord, (verses 44-45).

### **V58-86**

After the public address Limhi and Ammon, apparently alone, talk about the records of Limhi's people. Ammon reads through them (v.57-58) and then Limhi asks if he can interpret foreign languages, but he confesses he cannot (v.59).

Limhi then relates to him that he sent a group of out to go and find the Nephites from whom they left (v.60), but they ended up getting lost and finding the remains of another people who had been utterly destroyed (v.61-63). Among the ruins (v.64-68) they found 24 gold plates in a foreign language (v.64), and he is very eager to have them translated because they might explain why this mysterious nation was destroyed (v.69-70).

Ammon informs him that the king of the Nephites has a device from God which permits him to interpret all such things (v.72-76). The one who has this device is a "seer", a seer being both a prophet and a revelator, which is the most power God grants to man (v.77). A seer is one who can know the past as well as the future; they can know all things that God reveals to man. God makes things know to man through these seers, otherwise man would be left in ignorance (v.78-80). Thus, seers perform great service to his fellow men (v.81).

Limhi rejoices when he hears the king is able to translate such records because he is confident the records contain some great mystery to be revealed to men (v.82-83). Limhi then praises the wisdom of the Lord while lamenting the blindness and stupidity of men because they reject wisdom (v.84-85) and are as sheep who wander from the safety of the shepherd (v.86).

### **1. Who found 24 Jaredite gold plates and how?**

### **2. What did Ammon say about seers?**

### **General Comments on Mosiah 6-7:44**

These chapters backtrack chronologically from where Chapter 5 leaves off returning us to the events of Words of Mormon 1:18-22 and Omni 1:48-54. As such, a considerable amount of Nephite history is filled in. The narrative is told from the point of view of Zeniff, the original Nephite leader of the splinter group we have been reading about in the previous chapters.

Aside from the history, the chapters paint a picture of a group of people who were not particularly spiritual, but whose afflictions chastened them and brought them to remember the Lord. They are led by a man who fears the Lord and confesses their weakness before Him, and thus the people prosper under his leadership. This sets the stage for the subsequent chapters when Zeniff's son Noah takes over leadership and drags them down into apostasy. The result is we have a sharp contrast between Zeniff and Noah as leaders and we see the impact a single man can have on a whole population.