

## **A WICKED NEPHITE, KING NOAH**

(Mosiah 7:1-27)

### **V1-21**

Zeniff's son Noah takes over as king, but does not fear God as did his father (v.1). Noah engages in polygamy, has concubines, and permits prostitution even among the priests (v.2, 20). He taxes the people for 20% of all their metal, flocks, and grain (v.6) and spends it on himself and his people (v.7). He rejects the priests of his father and sets up his own priests (v.8), all of whom are supported by the taxation of the people (v.9). The people are led astray as well by the selfish and appealing words these priests speak to them (v.10).

Using the tax collections Noah has all kinds of elaborately ornamented buildings constructed, including a palace for himself containing an elevated and ornamented sitting area for his priests (v.11-15). He has a very high tower built so that he could look out over all the surrounding lands (v.16). He also has another tower built on the highest hill north of Shilom, location which was popular among the first settlers of the land, the original Nephites (v.17-19). He also has a wine press built and vineyards planted all about (v.21).

Thus, Noah was very much caught up in his wealth and wild living, as were his priests (v.20).

### **V22-27**

After some time, the Lamanites begin to encroach upon their lands again, plundering isolated people (v.22). Noah sends a few guards to protect the people, but there aren't enough of them so the Lamanites killed them and plundered more of the land (v.23-24).

So Noah sends out all of the armies to repulse the Lamanites, and they do so and also apparently plunder the Lamanites as well, obtaining spoil from them (v.25). This causes them to rejoice and boast in great pride over their military prowess, taking pleasure in war (v.26-27).

In verse 27, "and this because of the wickedness of the king", Mormon is placing the blame at the feet of the leadership. In doing so, he is deliberately drawing a sharp contrast between Zeniff and Noah. Where Zeniff leads his people to the Lord, Noah leads them away.

### **1. What changes did Noah make when he inherited his father's kingdom?**