

## **ABINADI**

(Mosiah 7:28-44)

### **V28-39**

A man in their midst named Abinadi has not been corrupted by Noah or his priests, and so the Lord fills him with the Spirit of prophesy. He goes among his fellow people and warns them the Lord will punish them (v.28-31) by delivering them into the hands of the Lamanites unless they repent (v.32-33). Then they will know the Lord is one who gets angry at his people, and punishes them for their sins (v.34) because they will be put into slavery to the Lamanites, and none will deliver them except God himself (v.35). When the people cry to Him, He will be slow to hear their cries and allow them to be smitten by the Lamanites (v.36). Until they truly humble themselves, the Lord will not hear them or deliver them (v.37-38). Those who hear what Abinadi says are angry at him and try to kill him for it, but he is delivered from them by the Lord (v.39).

Abinadi was internal to the population. It is likely he is one of the priests of Zeniff who was put down by Noah. The people of the city and Noah's priests never question Abinadi's authority, instead they badmouth him and try to argue doctrine with him. This suggests they knew they couldn't argue his authority, and the only way they couldn't do that would be because they all knew he was one of Zeniff's priests.

It is also possible that Abinadi is the son of one of one of Zeniff's priests, and was therefore raised righteously.

### **V40-44**

Word gets back to Noah what Abinadi was saying and he is angry as well, angry enough to have him executed. He questions both Abinadi and the Lord, flouting them both with his command to have Abinadi killed (v.40-41). Noah's rationalization for the death penalty is an accusation of treason (v.42). The king and his people are all blinded by their sin and harden against what Abinadi has said, so none of them repent (v.43-44).

Noah's accusation of treason suggests there was some portion of the population which was not favorably disposed to his leadership style, and he knew it. Given the high taxes, promiscuous lifestyle, and profligate ways, this is to be expected. Noah doesn't want Abinadi persuading those who already don't like him any further, and he is probably concerned about them becoming organized under one outspoken leader.

**1. When did Abinadi first preach? What was his basic message at that time?**