

ABINADI PREACHES

(Mosiah 7:45-58)

Abinadi here is preaching repentance and imminent destruction.

V45-58

Having previously been rejected by the people two years earlier (see v.28-39), Abinadi comes among them in disguise to preach. He warns them the Lord will destroy them if they do not repent (v.45-47). They will be made captive and killed by the Lamanites (v. 48-49, 52), and the king's life will be worthless (v.50). Then the people will be struck with famine, disease and plague of insects (v.51, 53-54). Unless they repent, they will be annihilated, and leave behind only a record of their sin to expose it to other nations (v.55-58).

The various curses they are threatened with are standard or Old Testament covenant curses (see Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28). While some of the curses do ultimately come to pass among them, others do not. The later chapters make no mention of hail, disease, famine, or insects, and the people are not annihilated. This is because under Limhi's leadership and the great afflictions, the people do repent. So, the imminent disaster is avoided. This is the purpose of covenant curses, to get people to repent. Once they truly repent, the curses stop and the blessings start.