

## **LIMHI'S PEOPLE ARE SMITTEN AND DEFEATED BY THE LAMANITES**

(Mosiah 9:140-181)

### **V140-143**

Limhi and his people return to their land and have peace for some time (v. 140), but after awhile the Lamanites start oppressing and abusing them (v. 141-142). It was just as Abinadi had predicted (v. 142), there was nothing they could do to deliver themselves from their enemies (v. 143) except humble themselves and rely on the Lord.

### **V144-152**

Limhi's people tire of the oppression and abuse of the Lamanites (v. 144-145), so they gird up for war and attack (v. 146). They are defeated twice, suffering heavy casualties both times and leaving many widows among them (v. 147-152).

While Mormon sees their condition plainly and comments on it in verse 143, they themselves do not see it until after suffering two humiliating defeats at the hands of the Lamanites.

Another issue is that the Nephites always lose the battle when they go on the offensive (see Helaman 4:34-39, Mormon 2:1-3), and are counseled against going on the offensive whenever counsel is given (see 3 Nephi 2:25-28, Alma 20:51-52, Alma 21:135-136, Mormon 1:75-76). This is one of those consistent themes of the Book of Mormon, that the Lord generally endorses defense and generally rejects offense (see 1 Samuel 13:1-4).

### **V153-158**

The oppression and then the defeat and slaughter at the hands of the Lamanites finally brings the people to humble themselves before the Lord and to cry out to Him (v. 153-154). But, the Lord is slow to hear their cries because they are slow to repent of their sins, but as they do repent the Lord does lighten their afflictions (v. 155-156) and prospers them little by little (v. 157). The people not only turn their hearts to the Lord, but also to their neighbors as well (v. 158).

### **V159-162**

Some details concerning their present situation are given to establish the context of Limhi's reaction when he meets Ammon. Limhi and his people generally keep themselves and their things inside the city wall (v. 159) because they fear the Lamanites (v. 160) and because the priests of Noah have been stealing things from them (v. 161-162). The result is they're very much on the defensive.

### **V163-170**

There is peace between Limhi's people and the Lamanites for some time (v. 163). Then Ammon shows up and while he is initially misidentified (v. 164), they discover he is from the land of Zarahemla (v. 165), which they themselves have been trying to find. Verses 166-170 are a recap for historical continuity.

### **V171-174**

While Limhi and his people are generally pleased about Ammon's arrival and the good news that the Nephites are in fact not extinct, Ammon and his men are generally upset about what has happened to the splinter group and how bad things have gone for them.

### **V175-181**

Limhi and his people have repented and wish to formally covenant with the Lord (v. 175, 179-180) and organize themselves religiously, but there is no authority present to do so (v. 176-178). So, their thoughts naturally turn to delivering themselves from their present servitude to the Lamanites (v. 179-180).