

## **MOSIAH'S SONS PREACH TO THE LAMANITES**

(Mosiah 12)

### **V1-8**

Few missionary endeavors in the history of the world can be compared to the task which the sons of Mosiah are planning. They actually desire to preach the gospel to their enemies. Just as any American would be foolhardy to try to attempt to preach to their political and philosophical enemies, the sons of Mosiah are planning the unthinkable - to be missionaries to a people who think nothing of killing Nephites. They are just as likely to be killed as they are to convert anyone. Yet they are undaunted. Their plan is outlandish, ambitious, and aggressive.

In verse 5, one might ask, "where does this desire for the salvation of mankind come from?" Why weren't the sons of Mosiah content to preach the gospel to their own people and attend to their church duties like everyone else? The answer comes from their great desire for their fellow beings. This desire is one of the greatest expressions of charity that can be demonstrated. Their concern was not for themselves or their own people; they were worried about the salvation of the Lamanites. They were about to find out that it would take all the characteristics of charity to be successful in such a bold endeavor.

The sons of Mosiah demonstrate that the very vilest of sinners can become the most useful of instruments in the hands of the Lord. This should be a great source of hope for those who have sinned and may have considered themselves unworthy to serve the Lord. Such self-deprecation is a lie taught by the evil one to keep them from reaching their potential, which, indeed, may be as great as that of the sons of Mosiah. Those who have sinned and repented often make the best counselors and missionaries because of a greater capacity to understand and empathize with those racked with sin.

### **V9-15**

*"All the things which he had kept and preserved"* refers to the items which were kept by the custodian of the records and includes the Liahona, the sword of Laban, and the Urim and Thummim. In addition, we get a sense for what records Mosiah had at the time. He would have had the brass plates of Laban, the small plates of Nephi, the large plates of Nephi, the record of Zeniff (which probably were incorporated into the large plates of Nephi), and the record of the Jaredites (the plates of gold).

### **V16-21**

Mosiah was a seer and used this power to translate the record of the Jaredites (v. 18). What is interesting is that Mosiah acted as seer and not Alma. It is apparent that Mosiah had the power of seer well before Alma showed up in Zarahemla (Mosiah 5:72-74). However, when Alma arrived, Mosiah apparently recognized his capacity for spiritual leadership and gave him power over the churches of Zarahemla (Mosiah 11:97).

### **V22-26**

The people who were destroyed obviously refers to the Jaredites. What is not said is that the 24 plates of gold which Mosiah translates include a vision of the brother of Jared which is not revealed to the people at this time. It is not revealed because the doctrine in it is too sacred. Some of this material was not to come forth until after the resurrection of the Savior (Ether 1:86), and some of it was not to come forth until the Gentiles...repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord. And...exercise faith in me...even as the brother of Jared did (Ether 1:101-102). The latter section still has not been revealed and is part of the sealed portion of the Book of Mormon.

**1. Who translated the Jaredite record? What was the people's reaction when they learned about its contents ?**