

MOSIAH PROPOSES THAT JUDGES BE CHOSEN IN PLACE OF A KING

(Mosiah 13)

V1-5

King Mosiah handed off the plates and Urim and Thummim to the younger Alma (v. 1-2), now he is looking to hand off the kingship as well. He seeks the voice of the people concerning who should be king (v. 3), and the majority, or perhaps consensus, choose his son, Aaron (v. 4), but Aaron has previously left to go do missionary work among the Lamanites, and had previously refused to be king anyway, as had all of his sons (v. 5).

V6-46

Mosiah's reaction to having no heir apparent (v. 6-15) and his concern over having a bad king who would corrupt the people (v. 21-32) causes him to propose a system of judges (v. 33-40). Having a good king who applies the Laws of God isn't a bad thing (v. 14-20), but Mosiah commands them to not have kings anymore because the risk of a bad one is too great and all men should answer for their own actions rather than be influenced by one sinful man (v. 41-46)

V47-52

Mosiah tells the people that being a righteous king is not all that great as you have to put up with a lot of nonsense and complaining (v. 47-48), and this should not have to be. Rather, people ought to govern themselves (v. 49). Verses 50-52 discusses why monarchy is fraught with peril to those governed by it.

V53-68

The people believe and accept Mosiah's words (v. 53) so they abandon the thought of wanting a king so everyone might be responsible for themselves (v. 54-55). They then elect judges, and rejoice over the opportunity to act for themselves (v. 56-57). They also realize what a blessing it is to have someone like Mosiah as their king (v. 58-61).

The people appoint local judges (v. 62), and the younger Alma, in addition to being the high priest, is elected as chief judge (v. 63), and thus there is peace and order in the land (v. 64) as the reign of the judges commence (v. 65).

Alma senior, the founder of the church among the Nephites, dies (v. 66). King Mosiah also dies (v. 67), thus bringing to a close the reign of the kings among the Nephites.

1. According to Mosiah, what do good kings and bad kings do?

2. What does the "voice of the people" usually desire; and what does it mean if the desires of that "voice" change for the worse?