

## **CHRIST SHALL BE BORN OF MARY**

(Alma 5)

Alma's comments generally follow what we would refer to as the First Principles and Ordinances of the Gospel: Faith in Jesus Christ (v. 13-23), Repentance, Baptism, receiving the Holy Ghost (v. 24-28), and enduring to the end (v. 38-42).

### **V1-3**

Alma addresses the church and explains to them he could not visit them previously because his time was entirely too consumed by his position as chief judge (v. 1-2). Had he not given up that position he would not be visiting them now (v. 3).

### **V4-12**

Alma is much relieved that the church (v. 4-6) is not in the same bad situation as was the church in Zarahemla (v. 7-9), overwhelmed with pride and worshipping their wealth (v. 10-12).

### **V13-23**

Alma wants to tell them about things which will come, but the most important is that advent of the Savior (v. 13-14), which will be in the flesh but not among the Nephites (v. 15-16).

The Spirit impels Alma to preach that the kingdom of God is close at hand because the Son of God will soon be born (v. 17-18). He shall be born to a woman named Mary in the land of Jerusalem, and she will conceive by the Holy Spirit (v. 19). He will suffer all kinds of afflictions (v. 20-21) and take death upon himself so he may know how to relieve his people in their times of need (v. 21-23).

The Holy Spirit may know everything, but the Son will have the experience of taking the people's sins upon Himself in the flesh so that He may deliver them from sin (v. 23). This is an experience, and therefore firsthand knowledge, the Holy Spirit lacks.

### **V24-28**

All people must have faith in the Lamb of God, repent, be baptized, and be born anew to spiritual things or they cannot join the kingdom of heaven (v. 24-25). Alma tells them to abandon all their sins which drag them down and show God they are willing to keep His commandments by being baptized (v. 26-27). However, those who do this and keep the commandments from that point on will have eternal life (v. 28).

### **V29-37**

Alma perceives by the Spirit and is pleased that the church knows and believes that things he has just said in verses 13-28 (v. 29-31), because that means they are not in the bad situation the church at Zarahemla was in (v. 32). He sees they are in the straight paths of righteousness which lead to the kingdom of God (v. 33-34). He sees they know God's ways are not crooked but straightforward and consistent (v. 34-35), and His kingdom is not filthy (v. 36-37).

### **V38-42**

Alma now exhorts the church to endure to the end by walking blamelessly before God (v. 38). He encourages them to be humble and submissive to God, keeping His commandments, and petitioning Him by prayer for all their needs (v. 39-40). He tells them to have faith, hope, and Christ-like love, and if they do they will always do good works (v. 41).

Alma then blesses them that the Lord will keep them from sin so they may end up in the kingdom of Heaven as did their righteous fathers (v. 42).

### **V43-44**

Alma closes by once again expressing his happiness over their religious zeal (v. 43), and he gives them a blessing of peace and prosperity on their land and families which is contingent upon their good works (v. 44).