

ALMA THE YOUNGER PREACHES

(Alma 7)

V1-7

Having been commanded by the Lord to do so, Alma preaches at the people of Ammonihah again. Their reaction is argue with him (v. 1). They appeal to popular voice in outnumbering Alma as they are a multitude and Alma is only one (v. 2, 6). They also reject his seemingly impossible predictions of their imminent destruction because their spiritual blindness has caused them to reject God (v. 3-5). The people then move to do Alma some kind of physical harm (v. 7).

Alma's argument against the people at Ammonihah comes in three parts: 1) they have rejected the tradition of their father Lehi (v. 8-16) the Lamanites are cut off spiritually from the Lord because of the false traditions of their fathers Laman and Lemuel (v. 17-23); 3) the people at Ammonihah will be physically cut off from the land by the Lamanites because they rebel against the traditions of their father Lehi (v. 24-39).

V8-16

Alma stands against the threat of violence and continues preaching (v. 8). He asks them how it is they could have forgotten the traditions of their fathers and the commandments of God (v. 8) when He has done so much for their father Lehi in guiding him through the wilderness to this land (v. 9-10) as well as the generations in between in protecting the Nephites from the Lamanites (v. 11). Had in not been for God's mercy and patience with the Nephites they would have been destroyed a long time ago (v. 12). And now God commands them to repent or they will be destroyed (v. 13-16), just as He has warned many times that if they do not keep the commandments they will be cut off (v. 16).

V17-23

Alma then uses the example of the Lamanites to show that they have been cut off from the Lord spiritually for failing to keep God's commandments, and thus His word is verified (v. 17-18). However, their condition is not as bad as the Nephite condition (v. 19-20) because God is merciful to them because their ignorance of His commandments is not deliberate since their first fathers Laman and Lemuel led them astray. So, the Lord will be merciful to them in their honest ignorance (v. 20-21), until at some point in the future they are taught the truth (v. 22-23).

V24-38

While the Lamanites were spiritually cut off from the Lord, the Nephites will be physically cut off (i.e. destroyed) if they break the commandments. This is because the Nephites have been blessed so greatly (v. 28-34), their rebellion is therefore deliberate (v. 26-27, 35-38). And, the means of their being destroyed will be the Lamanites (v. 24-26).

V39-46

God doesn't want to have to destroy this people, and that is why He has sent Alma to warn them to change their ways (v. 39).

Alma tells them the time is not far off that the Messiah will come and the kingdom of Heaven will be established (v. 40). When the Messiah comes he will redeem those who are baptized through faith on his name (v. 41). So they need to repent and prepare for salvation. Otherwise they will end up damned (v. 42-44).

V47-51

What Alma says just makes the people more angry because they are so spiritually hardened (v. 47). When he tells them they are a spiritually lost people, they want to throw him in prison for it (v. 48), presumably to silence him. But, they didn't throw him into prison at that point (v. 49), because the Lord provided Amulek to preach to the people as an insider (v. 50-51).