

ALL ARE JUDGED

(Alma 9:1-61)

V1-16

Alma's opening statements go directly to the weak point that Amulek has opened. Zeezrom is trembling because he has been unexpectedly caught in a trap that he attempted to lay. Alma reinforces Amulek's illumination of Zeezrom's dark plan. What he now does is make sure that the assembled crowd may not disassociate themselves from Zeezrom. (v.1-7)

Alma is attempting to give the people a chance to separate themselves from the teachings they have learned at the feet of the lawyers such as Zeezrom. Alma tells the people that just as Zeezrom attempted to ensnare Amulek, he (and others like him) have already ensnared the people. (v.8-9)

Zeezrom has asked for information, and Alma's first statement is that the Lord tells some people, but that the Lord also constrains some information. Alma tells him that there are things that the Lord can only reveal to those whose hearts are ready for them. However, now Zeezrom's heart has been opened, and therefore Alma can answer his question. (v.10-16)

V17-40

As Alma notes, Amulek concentrated on the physical death and resurrection. Alma will discuss the more spiritual aspects of the atonement, the need for repentance. Where the physical resurrection is a free gift to all, our ultimate salvation depends upon each individual. (v.17-22)

In verse 40, Alma clarifies that the temporal death of which he had spoken earlier is precisely the same death that came upon Adam and all of mankind. Because of Adam we all die a temporal death. What we do in this life is prepare ourselves to receive the joy of God, a state that will come after the resurrection, and by implication, after the judgment.

V41-61

God has a situation that should not be, one in which there is no good result. The result at this point is simply temporal death, and ultimately, spiritual death. (v.41-43)

Alma now begins with the solution, which is the Atonement. While all men must die, the atonement allows for them to be resurrected. (v.44-46)

The ability to know about the plan of redemption (or the Atonement) is contingent upon our faith and repentance. These two requirements are not simple throwaway religious language. They really are requirements for understanding the plan of God. (v.47-50)

Now Alma begins to introduce the most important part of his sermon. This is where he solves the dilemma. He has created a condition where choice can lead to eternal condemnation. (v.51-54)

Here are the conditions placed upon us. If we repent and do not harden our hearts, we can have our sins cleansed through the Atonement of Jesus Christ. With no sin, we may enter into the rest of the Lord. However, if we do harden our hearts we will not repent. As an unrepentant one, we cannot enter into the rest of the Lord. (v.55-56)

Alma has been discussing the Atonement in the abstract, and he now makes it personal. He specifically tells the people of Ammonihah that their hearts are hard, and that they will not enter into the rest of the Lord. Alma calls for repentance. He has no joy in the doom he has forecast, and he continues to appeal to the Ammonihahites to do the one thing that will prevent the predicted temporal and spiritual death. He asks them to repent. (v.57-61)