

ALMA AND AMULEK ARE IMPRISONED AND SMITTEN

(Alma 10:32-85)

Some believe and repent, but most of the people of Ammonihah reject the words of Alma and Amulek and seek to destroy them

Zeezrom repents and is cast out when he attempts to speak for Alma and Amulek; the believers of Ammonihah are burned along with the scriptures

Alma and Amulek are put into prison and suffer mocking and deprivation at the hands of the Ammonihah officials

God delivers Alma and Amulek from the prison in Ammonihah while the chief judge and those with him are slain by the collapse of the prison

V32-46

While many believed they were still in the minority (v.32)"the more part" wanted to kill Alma and Amulek. (v.33) They wanted to dispose of them secretly "privily" (v.35)

There was no division, or at least no significant division, between church and state at Ammonihah. (v.37-39) The testimony the people level against them includes both secular and religious arguments designed to incite anger. If the judges hearing the case were completely secularized the people wouldn't have employed such arguments.

Casting the men out and then killing the women and children is in fulfillment of Alma's prediction in Alma 8:24-34. (v.42-46) That they cast out the men by threat of mob violence and then afterwards killed their wives and children shows their cowardice.

V47-85

The irony of this verses 55 and 56 are overwhelming. The judge has just witnessed his own people murdering their own religious minority by fire, and then he presents that as proof that he and his people will not burn in hell. In committing the act of murder they think they can prove Alma and Amulek are false prophets, when what they have really done is prove unequivocally that they are right.

Even when people are this hardened, this spiritually bankrupt, and this destructive they still seek some kind of rationale to substantiate their actions. Logic and sophistry can be used to falsely justify just about anything, but "by their fruits ye shall know them".

Note that the hierarchy of Ammonihah are mostly, if not entirely, present for this final interview. While Alma and Amulek might not have understood why they had to suffer so much for so long, in God's eyes it might have been expeditious to wait until the hierarchy were present to cause their entire destruction in one blow. (v.73)

Again, the judge's words are terribly ironic. They challenge them to produce a sign from God, and they do, but the sign ends up killing them. They end up believing God will destroy the people, because they are immediately destroyed as a sign of just that. (v.74)

In this case the wickedness of the leaders and their society is punished rather quickly by the Lord. And, that pattern seems to follow regularly through the Book of Mormon. We might wonder why the Lord doesn't work so expeditiously today. The major reason for this difference is they were covenant Israel and the societies we live in today are not. Gentile nations are not under the stringent requirements of covenant theology, with explicit covenant curses following on the heels of wickedness, so the Lord deals with these populations differently.