

## **ALMA AND AMULEK GO TO SIDOM AND ESTABLISH A CHURCH**

(Alma 10:86-111)

### **V86-94**

Alma and Amulek travel to Sidom (v.86-88)

Verse 89 returns to the story of Zeezrom. Zeezrom is among those who have been cast out of Ammonihah. When we find him in the land of Sidom, he is burning up with fever. While this is a very physical manifestation, this is due to a spiritual cause rather than a temporal one. This fever is at least symbolic of the burning of the wicked, the lake of fire and brimstone of which Alma preached. Zeezrom had seen his sins, and is now in a lake of fire and brimstone, and very physical one in which "he began to be scorched with a burning heat."

### **V95-99**

The most important question is whether or not Zeezrom believes in Christ. Not only believes in Christ, but believes in the "power of Christ unto salvation." This is important because it requires a complete restructuring of Zeezrom's beliefs. To believe in the power of Christ unto salvation requires that Zeezrom first see Christ as the Atoning Messiah, a concept the Nehorites deny. He must secondly see that there are sins which will require this atonement, another doctrine denied by the Nehorites. Alma is asking if Zeezrom has been completely converted.

Zeezrom's belief allows for him to be healed. We have a physical ailment, and a spiritual sickness. When Alma "heals" the one, he also heals the other. Both the physical and the spiritual are healed, and Zeezrom "leaps" to his feet. This tells us that the change is not gradual, but that there is an immediate improvement.

### **V100-107**

The result of this miraculous transformation is the establishment of the church in the land of Sidom, and the baptism of those who would be members. This is the form of establishment of a church that both Alma the Younger and his father have followed. (v.100-104)

This is an intentional contrast. It is to be made even more poignant by the present of Zeezrom, who did heed the call to repentance, even though he had much to repent of. The people remaining in Ammonihah had been blinded by the profession of Nehor, and were about to reap the early consequences. Amulek's acceptance of the gospel has cost him all he had. It not only cost him his gold (as a representative of his wealth) but also his "father and his kindred."

### **V108-111**

This is the logical conclusion. Amulek has been cut off from everything, including his kin. He has no home, nor family, no connections, no one who is obliged to watch out for him. (v.105-107)

Alma provides him with that, taking him "to his own house." This man who was bereft of his support network nevertheless finds a new one in Alma and the gospel. So too do many modern saints find themselves bereft of their former social supports, and find replacements for them in the Gospel.