

## April 27-May 3 Mosiah 7-10

Hello to all. I hope this finds you well during this unusual time.

As I studied these chapters, I have to admit, for me they were a bit more confusing than the previous Mosiah chapters, so bear with me as I summarize what stood out to me this week.

A brief summary of the timeline (Not necessarily the order in the scriptures, but rather the actual timeline of events).

- When the people of Lehi had reached the land of Nephi, there was a battle and ultimately the people split (Nephites & Lamanites).
- The Lord tells King Mosiah (the 1<sup>st</sup>) to leave this land and find another place
- He takes his people and flees to the land of Zarahemla where the Nephites join with the people of that land.
- Zeniff then takes some men to go back to the land of Nephi to find out what's going on with the Lamanites
- He sees this land and says "it's good". Then against God's warning, he wants to go back because he feels this is a place that will benefit his people and wants to negotiate a way for his people to return to this land.
- They are ultimately captured and put into bondage by Laman which was Laman's plan all along as they had discussions during the different visits.
- Two generations later, King Mosiah (the 2<sup>nd</sup>) agrees to let Ammon take 16 men to go down to the land of Nephi to see if they can find out what happened with their ancestors who went down years ago.
- Ammon and his group meet up with King Limhi who after a conversation, realizes that these men are seeking after what had happened to Zeniff and his men, King Limhi's grandfather and feels this is a sign from God.
- Limhi realizes that God is still with them and that there is hope for deliverance from bondage.

There are times when we all make choices that go against God's warning. Like Zeniff, this does not mean that we are bad people. We have agency to accept the Lord's counsel or not.

What matters is when we realize that the choices we have made were not the right ones, how do we deal with that? Where do our hearts turn?

Regardless of what choice we make, if our hearts remain with God and turn to him when we realize our errors, repent and ask for his guidance, He will always deliver us. It's important to remember however, that there may be lessons we must learn and trials we must endure due to those choices first. The Lord **WILL** deliver us, but in His time and at his pleasure.

It is also important to remember that the choices we make must be made carefully and with thought and prayer. They may affect us only momentarily, but they could also affect our posterity for generations to come as did Zeniff's

I leave you my testimony in that we have the gift of agency. We can choose to accept God's counsel or attempt to do things a different way. We must accept the consequences of those choices. Regardless, if we keep our tents facing the Temple, keep our hearts turned toward God, he will not leave us. He will walk that path with us and when the time is right, He will deliver us out of the situation that we are in. He desires to deliver us if we turn to the Lord "with full purpose of heart, trust in him and serve him with all diligence of mind". (Mosiah 7:33)

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen

Sister Anzalone