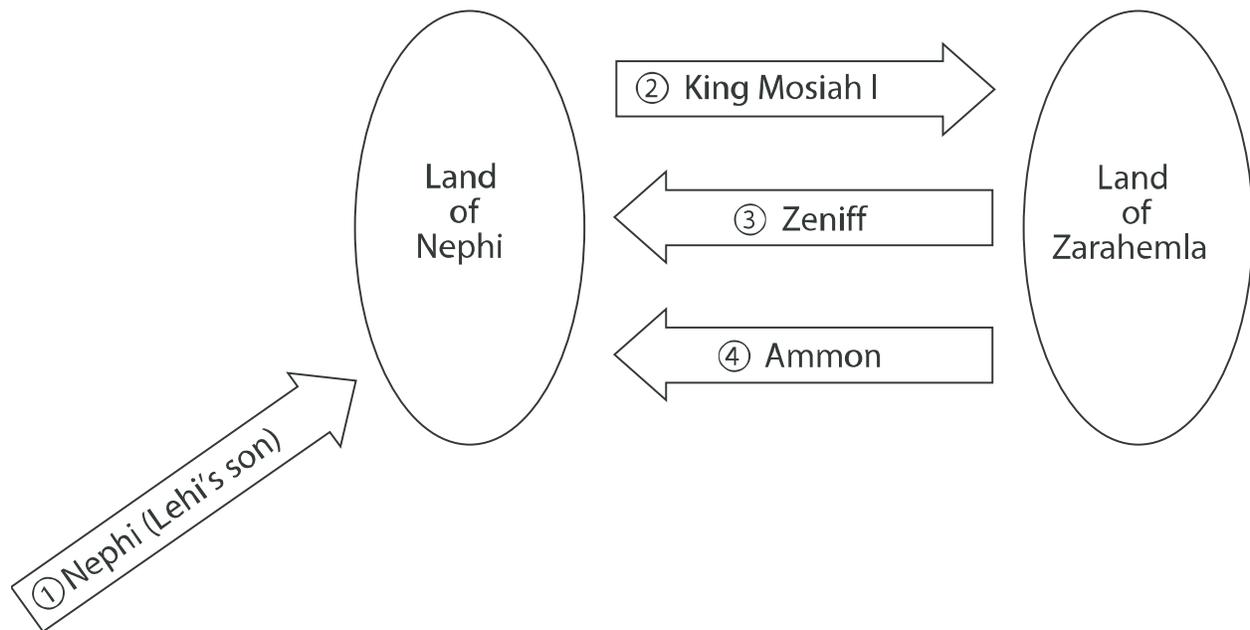


Web site "nathanolsen.com"

Next Weeks Lesson: Lesson 18 "God Himself ... Shall Redeem His People" ([Mosiah 12-17](#))

Today's Lesson: Lesson 17 "A Seer ... Becometh a Great Benefit to His Fellow Beings" ([Mosiah 7-11](#))



In order to understand the Lord's dealings with His people in the book of Mosiah, it is helpful to understand the events described in [2 Nephi 5](#), the book of Omni, and [Mosiah 7](#) and [Mosiah 9](#). We will use the diagram above to briefly recount those events. The numbers below correspond with the numbers on the diagram:

1. After Lehi's death, the Lord commanded the followers of Nephi to separate from the followers of Laman. The Nephites settled in a land that they called the land of Nephi ([2 Nephi 5:5-8](#)). The land was later also known as "the land of Lehi-Nephi" ([Mosiah 7:1](#)).
2. About 400 years later the Nephites were led by a king named Mosiah. The Lord commanded Mosiah to flee from the land of Nephi with "as many as would hearken unto the voice of the Lord." Mosiah and his people discovered a group of people called the people of Zarahemla. The two groups of people united and called themselves Nephites. Mosiah was appointed to be their king ([Omni 1:12-19](#)).
3. A group of Nephites left the land of Zarahemla to regain part of the land of Nephi ([Omni 1:27](#)). They obtained land there under the leadership of a man named Zeniff, who became their king ([Mosiah 9:1-7](#)).

4. About 79 years later King Mosiah II, the grandson of the first King Mosiah, “was desirous to know concerning the people who went to dwell in the land of Lehi-Nephi.” He permitted a man named Ammon to lead an expedition for this purpose (note that this Ammon was not the son of Mosiah who later preached the gospel among the Lamanites). Ammon and his brethren found King Limhi and his people. Limhi was Zeniff’s grandson ([Mosiah 7:1-11](#)).

1. Ammon and his brethren find Limhi and his people. Ammon teaches Limhi of the importance of a seer. ([Mosiah 7-8](#))

- A. Why did Limhi take Ammon and his companions captive? (See [Mosiah 7:8-11](#).) Why did Limhi rejoice when he learned who Ammon was? (See [Mosiah 7:12-15](#).) What message did Limhi share with his people after talking with Ammon? (See [Mosiah 7:17-20](#), [Mosiah 7:29-33](#).) What does this reveal about Limhi’s qualities as a leader?
- B. Limhi told Ammon that he once sent 43 people to search for their brethren in Zarahemla ([Mosiah 8:7](#)). What did this group find instead? (See [Mosiah 8:8-11](#); see also [Ether 1:1-2](#).)
- C. What did Limhi request of Ammon regarding the 24 gold plates of the Jaredites? (See [Mosiah 8:11-12](#).) Why would it be helpful for Limhi’s people—and for us—to “know the cause of [the] destruction” of the Jaredites?
- D. How did Ammon respond to Limhi’s request? (See [Mosiah 8:13-14](#).) What other titles did Ammon associate with the title of seer? (See [Mosiah 8:16](#).) Whom do we sustain today as prophets, seers, and revelators?
- E. What are the roles of a seer? (See [Mosiah 8:13](#), [Mosiah 8:17-18](#).) How do latter-day prophets, seers, and revelators fulfill these roles? How have latter-day prophets, seers, and revelators been “a great benefit” to you?

Elder Boyd K. Packer said:

“The scriptures speak of prophets as ‘watch[men] upon the tower’ who see ‘the enemy while he [is] yet afar off’ and who have ‘beheld also things which were not visible to the natural eye ... [for] a seer hath the Lord raised up unto his people.’

“[Many years ago] the Brethren warned us of the disintegration of the family and told us to prepare. ... The weekly family home evening was introduced by the First Presidency. ... Parents are provided with excellent materials for teaching their children, with a promise that the faithful will be blessed.

“While the doctrines and revealed organization remain unchanged, all agencies



of the Church have been reshaped in their relationship to one another and to the home. ... The entire curriculum of the Church was overhauled—based on scriptures. ... And years were spent preparing new editions of the Bible, the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price. ...

“We can only imagine where we would be if we were just now reacting to [the] terrible redefinition of the family. But that is not the case. We are not casting frantically about, trying to decide what to do. We know what to do and what to teach. ...

“The course we follow is not of our own making. The plan of salvation, the great plan of happiness, was revealed to us, and the prophets and Apostles continue to receive revelation as the Church and its members stand in need of more” (in Conference Report, Apr. 1994, 24-25; or [Ensign, May 1994, 20](#)).

2. The record of Zeniff recounts a brief history of Zeniff’s people. ([Mosiah 9-10](#))

[Mosiah 9-22](#) of the book of Mosiah contain a history of the people who left Zarahemla to return to the land of Nephi. The history begins with the account of Zeniff, Limhi’s grandfather.

- A. Zeniff was a member of a group of Nephites who wanted to regain from the Lamanites some of the land of Nephi ([Mosiah 9:1](#)). What was the Lamanites’ attitude toward the Nephites? (See [Mosiah 10:11-17](#).) How do the traditions of the past sometimes stir people up to hatred? Why are such traditions perpetuated?
- B. What can we learn from Zeniff about overcoming feelings of hatred? (See [Mosiah 9:1](#). Zeniff was sent as a spy to determine how to destroy the Lamanites. However, when he saw “that which was good” among the Lamanites, he no longer wanted to destroy them.) What can we do to honestly see the good in others?
- C. What mistake did Zeniff make in his efforts to “inherit the land of [his] fathers”? (See [Mosiah 7:21-22](#); [Mosiah 9:3](#).) What were the results of Zeniff’s overzealousness? (See [Mosiah 9:3-12](#); [Mosiah 10:18](#).) What are some dangers of being overzealous, even in a good cause? How can we be zealous in the Lord’s work without being overzealous?
- D. In their determination to obtain a part of the land of Nephi, Zeniff and his people “were slow to remember the Lord [their] God” ([Mosiah 9:3](#)). What finally led them to turn to the Lord? (See [Mosiah 9:13-17](#).) How were they blessed when they remembered the Lord and prayed for deliverance? (See [Mosiah 9:18](#); [Mosiah 10:19-21](#).) As members of the Church, we have made a covenant to “always remember” the Lord ([D&C 20:77](#), [D&C 20:79](#)). What are some things we can do

that can help us keep this covenant?

3. Abinadi warns the people, but they are blind to Noah's wickedness. ([Mosiah 11](#))

- A. Who became king after Zeniff? (See [Mosiah 11:1](#).) What kind of a ruler was Noah? (See [Mosiah 11:1-19](#).)
- B. How did Noah influence the lives of his people? (See [Mosiah 11:2](#), [Mosiah 11:5-7](#).) How did the people and Noah share the responsibility for their sinfulness?
- C. The Lord sent the prophet Abinadi to call Noah and his people to repentance ([Mosiah 11:20](#)). What warnings did the Lord give through Abinadi? (See [Mosiah 11:20-25](#).)
- D. How did Noah and his people respond to Abinadi's warnings? (See [Mosiah 11:26-28](#); see also [Mosiah 12:13-15](#).) Why were the people angry with Abinadi and not with Noah, who had taxed them and caused them to support him in his iniquity? (See [Mosiah 11:7](#), [Mosiah 11:29](#).)
- E. Why do some people today reject servants of the Lord, like Abinadi, in favor of people like Noah? Why is it important to recognize and follow prophets of God? (See [Mosiah 8:16-18](#); [D&C 1:38](#); [D&C 84:36-38](#).)

We must strive to seek to follow the counsel of righteous leaders, particularly those whom the Lord has called as prophets, seers, and revelators.