

Alma 14*Alma & Amulek, Types of Christ*

1

Alma and Amulek	Similarities	Jesus Christ
Alma 14:1	Many people followed and believed them	Matthew 4:25
Alma 14:2	The people were angry with and wanted to destroy them	John 7:23; 18:3
Alma 14:3	They testified of the people's wickedness, who in turn wanted to put them away "privily"	Mark 14:1-2
Alma 14:5	They witnessed and testified against the people	Matthew 26:59-60
Alma 14:7	they were innocent of any wrongdoing	John 17:
Alma 14:7	Someone tried to undo the bad they had done against them	Luke 23:22
Alma 14:7	The people claimed they were possessed with a devil	John 10:20
Alma 14:9	The people took them to the place of martyrdom	Matthew 27:33
Alma 14:10	They felt the pain of others	2 Nephi 9:21; Alma 7:11-13
Alma 14:11	The spirit constrained them not to avoid pain and death	Matthew 26:39
Alma 14:13	They did avoid death before their work was finished	John 7:30
Alma 14:14	They were taken bound before the "chief judge"	Matthew 27:2
Alma 14:14	They were smitten	Matthew 27:30
Alma 14:15	They were asked what they could say for themselves	John 19:10
Alma 14:17	They refused to answer their enemies anything	Luke 23:9
Alma 14:17-18	They went to prison for three days	Matthew 12:40; 1 Peter 4:6
Alma 14:18	They answered their enemies nothing a second time	Matthew 27:12
Alma 14:19	They were asked if they understood they could be put to death for not responding	John 19:10
Alma 14:20,24	Some chidingly told them to use their power to deliver themselves	Matthew 27:40,42
Alma 14:21	They were spat upon	Matthew 27:30
Alma 14:22	They were mocked	Matthew 27:30
Alma 14:22	They experienced great thirst	John 19:28
Alma 14:22	Their clothes were taken from them	John 19:23 Matthew 27:28, 35
Alma 14:25	Through the power of God they were raised to their feet	Luke 24:36-39
Alma 14:27	Their enemies fell to the earth	John 18:3-6
Alma 14:27	The earth shook and something nearby was rent in twain	Matthew 27:51
Alma 14:28	They came forth out of prison	Matthew 28:6
Alma 14:28	Bands were loosed	Mosiah 15:8
Alma 14:29	Multitudes saw them afterwards	1 Corinthians 15:6

Brian D. Garner, *Search These Things Diligently*, pp. 188-190

2 **Alma 14:1-5***"Division"*

Brigham Young said, "The Gospel of salvation is perfectly calculated to cause division. It strikes at the root of the very existence of mankind in their wickedness, evil designs, passions, and wicked calculations. There is no evil among the human family, but at the foundation of which it strikes effectually, and comes in contact with every evil passion that rises in the heart of man. It is opposed to every practice of men, and consequently it disturbs them in the wicked courses they are pursuing."

JD, 1:235

3 **Alma 14:6***"Harrowed"*

Harrowing a field is done to break up the hardened crust of earth that has formed through disuse and neglect so that the seed can be planted and will grow. Our hearts too become hardened through sin and neglect of spiritual needs. Such hardness leaves no place for the seed of truth to take root and grow. But when the heart is broken with the awful realization of our guilt, or is "harrowed up" by this guilt, then there is a condition conducive to change and growth. Thus, Webster defines harrow as "to lacerate feelings, to torment."

Webster's Eighth Collegiate Dictions, s.v."harrow"

4 **Alma 14:10***How do we "exercise faith in God"*

The person must be worthy (see D&C 50:29).

The person must ask for that which is right in the eyes of the Lord (see 3 Nephi 18:20).

The person must ask with complete faith (see James 1:1-5)

Brian D. Garner, *Search These Things Diligently*, p.

5 **Alma 14:11***Why God allows tragedy?*

It is not the function of religion to answer all the questions about God's moral government of the universe, but to give one courage, through faith, to go on in the face of questions he never finds the answers to in his present status. Harold B. Lee, in Conference Report, October 1963, 108.

6 Just as Jesus had to endure affliction to prove himself, so must all men endure affliction to prove themselves. Marion G. Romney, in Conference Report, October 1969, 58.

7 The right question to ask is not why good people have trials, but how shall good people respond when they are tried?... God does not deny us the experience we came here to have. He does not insulate us from tribulation or guarantee immunity from trouble. Much of the pain we suffer and inevitably impose upon others is self-induced through our own bad judgment, through poor choices.... But much that happens to us in this life we cannot control; we only respond. Knowing what God has promised can provide the courage and faith we need. We are assured in the scriptures that we may know of a surety that the Lord does visit his people in their afflictions.... Thus the promise is that in times of sorrow and affliction, if we endure and remain faithful and put our trust in him and are courageous, the Lord will visit us in our afflictions, strengthen us to carry our burdens and support us in our trials. He'll be with us to the end of our days, lift us at the last day to greater opportunities for service, and exalt us at last with him and reunited loved ones, and he will consecrate our afflictions to our gain.

Marion D. Hanks, *Ensign*, Nov 1992, p. 64.

8 Now, we find many people critical when a righteous person is killed, a young father or mother is taken from a family, or when violent deaths occur. Some become bitter when oft-repeated prayers seem unanswered. Some lose faith and turn sour when solemn administrations by holy men seem to be ignored and no restoration seems to come from repeated prayer circles. But if all the sick were healed, if all the righteous were protected and the wicked destroyed, the whole program of the Father would be annulled and the basic principle of the Gospel, free agency, would be ended.

If pain and sorrow and total punishment immediately followed the doing of evil, no soul would repeat a misdeed. If joy and peace and rewards were instantaneously given the doer of good, there could be no evil—all would do good and not because of the rightness of doing good. There would be no test of strength, no development of character, no growth of powers, no free agency, only satanic controls.

Should all prayers be immediately answered according to our selfish desires and our limited understanding, then there would be little or no suffering, sorrow, disappointment or even death, and if these were not, there would also be an absence of joy, success, resurrection, eternal life and Godhood.... Being human we would expel from our lives, sorrow, distress, physical pain and mental anguish and assure ourselves of continual ease and comfort, but if we closed the doors upon such, we might be evicting our greatest friends and benefactors. Suffering can make saints of people as they learn patience, long suffering and self-mastery. The sufferings of our Savior were part of his education.

Spencer W. Kimball, *Tragedy or Destiny*, pp. 4-5

9 Yes, each of us will walk the path of disappointment, perhaps due to an opportunity lost, a power misused, or a loved one not taught. The path of temptation too, will be the path of each.... Likewise shall we walk the path of pain. We cannot go to heaven in a feather bed. The Savior of the world entered after great pain and suffering. We, as servants, can expect no more than the Master. Before Easter there must be a cross.

Thomas S. Monson, *Ensign*, Sept. 1992, p.4

10 I can understand why someone who lacks an eternal perspective might see the horrifying news footage of starving children and man's inhumanity to man and shake a fist at the heavens and cry, "If there is a God, how could he allow such things to happen"... God has put his plan in motion. It proceeds through natural laws that are, in fact, God's laws. Since they are his, he is bound by them, as are we... The Lord can control the elements. For the most part, however, he does not cause but he allows nature to run its course. In this imperfect world, bad things sometimes happen.... [However}, much adversity is man-made.... Much adversity has its origin in the principle of agency.... Often overlooked is the fact that choices have consequences.... At times we will be affected adversely by the way other people choose to exercise their agency. Our Heavenly Father feels so strongly about protecting our agency that he allows his children to exercise it, either for good or for evil.... But if we know and understand Heavenly Father's plan, we realize that dealing with adversity is one of the chief ways we are tested.

M. Russell Ballard, *Ensign*, May 1996, p.23

11 We have reviewed from scriptures and from living prophets four major reasons for suffering: (1) experience, (2) our good, (3) our own sins, and (4) accidents. It is important for our spiritual growth that [we] recognize the validity of these reasons.

Keith W. Perkins, *Sperry Symposium on the D&C and Church History*, 1992, p. 287

12 Trials, disappointments, sadness, and heartache come to us from two basically different sources. Those who transgress the laws of God will always have those challenges. The other reason for adversity is to accomplish the Lord's own purposes in our life that we may receive the refinement that comes from testing.... If you are suffering the disheartening effects of transgression, please recognize that the only path to permanent relief from sadness is sincere repentance with a broken heart and a contrite spirit... When those trials are not consequences of your

disobedience, they are evidence that the Lord feels you are prepared to grow more (see Prov. 3:11-12).... When you face adversity, you can be led to ask many questions. Some serve a useful purpose; others do not. To ask, Why does this have to happen to me? Why do I have to suffer this, now? What have I done to cause this? Will lead you into blind alleys.... Rather ask, What am I to do? What am I to learn from this experience? What am I to change? Whom am I to help? How can I remember my many blessings in times of trial? Willing sacrifice of deeply held personal desires in favor of the will of God is very hard to do. Yet when you pray with real conviction, "Please let me know Thy will" and "May Thy will be done," you are in the strongest position to receive the maximum help from your loving Father.

Richard G. Scott, *Ensign*, Nov. 1995, p.16

13

Since we assembled in general conference last April.... I experienced my third heart attack.... While I was lying in my hospital bed and for several weeks at home, my physical activity was severely restricted by intense pain which disabled my weakened body, but I learned the joy of freeing my mind to ponder the meaning of life and the eternities.... I discovered that if I dwelt only upon my pain, it inhibited the healing process. I found that pondering was a very important element in the healing process for both soul and body. Pain brings you to a humility that allows you to ponder. It is an experience I am grateful to have endured.... I have come to understand how useless it is to dwell on the *whys, what ifs, and if onlys* for which there likely will be given no answers in mortality. To receive the Lord's comfort, we must exercise faith. The questions Why me? Why our family? Why now? Are usually unanswerable questions. These questions detract from our spirituality and can destroy our faith. We need to spend our time and energy building our faith by turning to the Lord and asking for strength to overcome the pains and trials of this world and to endure to the end for greater understanding.... We must surrender ourselves to the Lord. In doing so, we give up whatever is causing our pain and turn everything over to Him. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee (Psalms 56:22)." ... Healing comes in the Lord's time and the Lord's way; by patient. Our Savior waits for us to come to Him through our scripture study, pondering, and prayer to our Heavenly Father.

Robert d. Hales, *Ensign*, Nov. 1998, pp. 14-17

14

God is not the author of evil, yet within limits and bounds he allows it to exist. This is done so that the righteous might merit the fullness of his glory and that the wicked, the workers of evil, might in like fashion merit the fullness of his wrath. Suffering sanctifies the souls of the faithful. The inflicting of that suffering soils all that is decent and makes the perpetrator a fit companion to the devil, to merit as he has merited and to be rewarded as he will be rewarded. Mocking and scourging, bonds and imprisonment, flight and refuge, destitution and torment have been the common lot of Saints in all ages. Yet that God who is not unmindful of the sparrow that falls has witnessed it all—he "having provided some better things for them through their sufferings, for without sufferings they could not be made perfect." (JST, Hebrews 11:40).

Millett & McConkie, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, 4 vol. [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1987-1992], 3:109

15

Why death? Why sickness? Why tragedies? Why must I have suffering, and disappointment? Why must I have to face the "deep waters" of life?....

We know little of the will of the Lord, yet we judge the Lord often with our small wisdom. I speak to those who now walk the deep water of life or the rivers of sorrow....

Elder Spencer W. Kimball said: "Being human, we would expel from our lives physical pain and mental anguish and assure ourselves of continual ease and comfort, but if we were to close the doors upon sorrow and distress, we might be excluding our greatest friends and benefactors. Suffering can make saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery" (*Faith Precedes the Miracle* [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1972], 98

I repeat: "Suffering can make saints of people as they learn patience, long-suffering, and self-mastery," as long as we live righteously.

Let's all learn from my friend Mick. One day he was swimming at a party.... He dove into the water and hit a shallow spot very hard. A broken neck was his diagnosis, and his whole body was immediately paralyzed...

At the time of this tragic accident he had just one year left of law school at BYU. He was married and had two children. This tragic accident changed his whole life.... It was inconceivable, the emotional and physical pain that he must go through as a quadriplegic.

Even though he was in this condition in the University of Utah Medical Center, he was determined to graduate from law school. It was an almost impossible task, but good friends, true Samaritans, brought him notes and taped lectures from Provo.... He turned pages by a mouthstick, and if his book flipped shut, he waited for a long time until someone came to help him.

Finally, he graduated from law school, passed the Utah bar exam, and became a licensed attorney. While he was studying, exercising, and maintaining doctor's contact to gain strength his wife took his two sons and divorced him.... But he never complained and even blessed the leaving loved ones.... It was his own Garden of Gethsemane, and he took his own cup and drank it as his blessing....

My friend Mick met a most beautiful lady, Cheryl. They married and now the greatest joy has come to their lives. His wife is expecting a baby. It is a miracle. The Lord said, "I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless." Last Friday, they were sealed in the temple for time and for all eternity.

Yoshihiko Kikuchi, in Conference Report, Apr. 1984 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1984] , 99-100

16 If we looked at mortality as the whole of existence, then pain, sorrow, failure, and short life would be calamity. But if we look upon life as an eternal thing stretching far into the premortal past and on into the eternal post-death future, then all happenings may be put in proper perspective.

Is there not wisdom in his giving us trials that we might rise above them, responsibilities that we might achieve, work to harden our muscles, sorrows to try our souls? Are we not exposed to temptations to test our strength, sickness that we might learn patience, death that we might be immortalized and glorified?

If all the sick for whom we pray were healed, if all the righteous were protected and the wicked destroyed, the whole program of the Father would be annulled and the basic principle of the gospel, free agency, would be ended. No man would have to live by faith.

If joy and peace and rewards were instantaneously given the doer of good, there could be no evil—all would do good but not because of the rightness of doing good. There would be no test of strength, no development of character, no growth of powers, no free agency, only satanic controls.

Should all prayers be immediately answered according to our selfish desires and our limited understanding, then there would be little or no suffering, sorrow, disappointment, or even death, and if these were not, there would also be no joy, success, resurrection, nor eternal life and godhood.

Spencer W. Kimball, *Faith Precedes the Miracle*, [1973] 97.

17 To be persecuted for righteousness sake in a great cause where truth and virtue and honor are at stake is god-like. Always there have been martyrs to every great cause. The great harm that may come from persecution is not from the persecution itself but from the possible effect it may have upon the persecuted who may thereby be deterred in their zeal for the righteousness of their cause. Much of that persecution comes from the lack of understanding, for men are prone to oppose that which they do not comprehend. Some of it comes from men intent upon evil. But from whatever cause, persecution seems to be universal against those engaged in a righteous cause that the Master warns us, "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you! For so did their fathers to the false prophets." (Luke 6:26.)

Harold B. Lee, *Decisions for Successful Living*, [Salt Lake City: Deseret Book, 1973], 61-62

18 Alma 14:18-24

The constable who served this second warrant upon me had no sooner arrested me than he began to abuse and insult me; and so unfeeling was he with me, that although I had been kept all the day in court without anything to eat since the morning, yet he hurried me off to Broome county, a distance of about fifteen miles, before he allowed me any kind of food whatever. He took me to a tavern, and gathered in a number of men, who used every means to abuse, ridicule and insult me. They spit up on me, pointed their fingers at me, saying, "Prophecy, prophecy!" and thus did they imitate those who crucified the Savior of mankind, not knowing what they did.

Joseph Smith, *History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 7 vols. Introduction and notes by B. H. Roberts [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1932-1951], 1:91

...it is a false idea that the saints will escape all the judgments, whilst the wicked suffer; for all flesh is subject to suffer, and "the righteous shall hardly escape;" still many of the Saints will escape, for the just shall live by faith; yet many of the righteous shall fall a prey to disease, to pestilence, etc., by reason of the weakness of the flesh, and yet to be saved in the Kingdom of God. So that it is an unhallowed principle to say that such and such have transgressed because they have been preyed upon by disease or death, for all flesh is subject to death; and the Savior has said, "Judge not, lest ye be judged." [TPJS, 162-63]

19 Alma 14:25-28*Deliverance of Alma and Amulek*

Help from the Lord always follows eternal law. The better you understand that law, the easier it is to receive His help...

...The example of Alma and Amulek is enlightening. While striving to do good among the people of Ammonihah, they were taken captive. Amulek trusted his more seasoned companion. Alma, who led him to greater confidence in the Lord. Forced to observe women and children consumed by fire, Amulek said, "perhaps they will burn us also." Alma answered, "*Be it according to the will of the Lord*"—a vital principle. "But... our work is not finished; therefore they burn us not" [Alma 14:12-13; italics added].

The chief judge and others over many days smote, spit upon, starved, questioned, and harassed them with mocking words and threats. Though commanded to speak, they withstood, bound and naked, in silence waiting patiently for the Lord to inspire them to act. Then "the power of God was upon Alma and Amulek, and they rose." Alma cried, "Give us strength *according to our faith which is in Christ, even unto deliverance*. And they broke the cords with which they were bound" [Alma 14:26; italics added; see vv. 15-26]. The earth shook; the prison walls were rent. All who smote Alma and Amulek were slain, and they were freed...

...The Lord will give relief with divine power when you seek deliverance in humility and *faith in Jesus Christ*.

Richard C. Scott, Conference Report, Apr. 1994, 7-8; or *Ensign*, May 1994, 7-8.

20 Alma 14*Conclusion*

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country; but he that stands in NOW deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly; 'tis dearness only that gives everything its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.

Thomas Jefferson

- 21 No pain that we suffer, no trial that we experience is wasted. It ministers to our education, to the development of such qualities as patience, faith, fortitude and humility. All that we suffer and all that we endure, especially when we endure it patiently, builds up our characters, purifies our hearts, expands our souls, and makes us more tender and charitable, more worthy to be called the children of God... and it is through sorrow and suffering, toil and tribulation, that we gain the education that we come here to acquire and which will make us more like our Father and Mother in heaven.
Orson F. Whitney
- 22 There are many trials in life which do not seem to come from unwisdom or folly; they are silver arrows shot from the bow of God, and fixed inextricably in the quivering heart. They are to be borne. They were not meant, like snow or water, to melt as soon as the strike; but the moment an ill can be patiently borne it is disarmed of its poison, though not of its pain.
Henry Ward Beecher
- 23 John Taylor quoted Joseph Smith:
"We must be tried and tested even as Abraham and other men of God... And He will feel after you and wrench your very heart strings... and if you cannot stand it, you will not be fit for an inheritance in the Celestial Kingdom of God."
- 24 I don't deny the struggle—it is the essence of Eden; the personal progress is what this life is about. We must begin at once to work our plan of life, deciding to whom and to what we will give our fullest attention, our highest loyalty, our deepest commitment.
Elaine Cannon
- 25 Courage is not limited to the battlefield or the Indianapolis 500 or bravely catching a thief in your house. The real tests of courage are much deeper and much quieter. They are the inner tests, like remaining faithful when nobody's looking, like enduring pain when the room is empty, like standing alone when you're misunderstood.
Charles R. Swindoll, *Growing strong in the Seasons of Life* (Zondervan)