

Alma 16:2-3*Destruction*

- 1 We live in a world... where we find sadness and destruction in every corner of the world—much of which is brought about by man’s failure to listen to the words of the true prophets of God.

Robert D. Hales, *Ensign*, May 1995, 15.

Alma 16:5*Zoram*

- 2 Zoram was a righteous, God-fearing man, appointed chief captain of the Nephite armies. He sought to rescue those taken prisoner by the Lamanite army that had destroyed the city of Ammonihah and also taken captives from around the borders of Noah. He should not be confused with the apostate by the same name who founded the sect known as the Zoramites (see Alma 30:59; Alma 31).

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, 4 vol. [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft, 1987-1992], 3:119

Alma 16:5-8*Pro-kingdom versus Anti-enemy*

- 3 When threatened, we become anti-enemy instead of pro-kingdom of God.... We forget that if we are righteous the Lord will either not suffer our enemies to come upon us (and this is the special promise to the inhabitants of the land of the Americas) or he will fight our battles for us.

Spencer W. Kimball, *Ensign*, June 1976 [Salt Lake City: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1976], 6

Alma 16:11

- 4 The desolation of the city of Ammonihah is an important part of the message of the Book of Mormon. Ammonihah and Nehor are symbols-history as prophecy. Ammonihah and Nehor were to the nation of the Nephites what the Book of Mormon is to us—a warning voice! They were types casting shadows upon the cities of Zarahemla, Moroni, Moronihah, Gilgal, Onihah, Mocum, Jerusalem, Gadiandi, Gadiomnah, Jacob, Gimgimno, Jacobugath, Laman, Josh, Gad, and Kishkumen, all of which, like Nehor, had the blood of the prophets and the Saints upon their hands, and all of which were destroyed before the coming of Christ to the Nephites in the meridian dispensation (see 3 Nephi 8, 9).

How perfect the type—Ammonihah, a city pretending religion, a religion perfectly tolerant of any action save it be the preaching of the gospel of repentance! To preach repentance, to testify of Christ, to speak of the necessity of good works—these were sins too grievous to be borne. Their effect was to unite in wrath and bitterness the diversified factions within the congregations of the ever-tolerant religion. These missionaries of righteousness must be mocked, ridiculed, beaten, and imprisoned. Their adherents must be stoned, driven from the community, or burned at the stake. Such were the seeds they planted and such was the harvest they reaped in the desolation of Nehors. We are left to wonder to what extent Ammonihah is a prophetic foreshadowing of that which the scriptures denominate as the “desolation of abomination” (D&C 84:114, 117; D&C 88:85), events that will precede and attend the coming of our Lord and Master that will bring again that peace once known to the faithful or the Nephite nation.

Joseph Fielding McConkie and Robert L. Millet, *Doctrinal Commentary on the Book of Mormon*, 4 vol. [Salt Lake City: Bookcraft 1987-1992], 3:119

5 **Alma 16:16**
No inequality

Faith blesses the life of the learned and the unlearned alike; repentance and baptism wash away the impoverished man's sins with the same ease that they cleanse the soul of the wealthy, while the Holy Ghost brings the same light and understanding to both. The principles and blessings of the gospel know no rank or station; they are uninfluenced by age or gender; they reach out with equal love and warmth to all.

Ibid. p. 122

6 **Alma 16:17**

A branch... grafted into the true vine] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman," Christ declared. "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:1, 5.) One is grafted into the true branch when he or she comes to the knowledge of the true Messiah and accepts his gospel.

Ibid. p.122

7 **Alma 16:18**

All vices of the flesh, all the seeds of carnality, all that is impure or unclean must be done away, for all such hinder the pure flow of intelligence from God to man. Having escaped the corruption that is in the world, we are then, by diligence, to obtain faith and add to our faith virtue, "and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 1:5-8.) That is, we are, through Christ, to replace the "works of the flesh" with the "fruit of the Spirit" (Galatians 5:19-25).

Ibid.

Alma 16:21

Satan will be bound by the power of God; but he will be bound also be the determination of the people of God not to listen to him, not to be governed by him. If Satan, therefore, has power with man, it is because man yields to his influence.

George Q. Cannon, *Gospel Truth*, 1:86-87.